AUTHENTIC HISTORY

OF THE

English West Indies;

WITH THE

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

OF THE

FREE INHABITANTS;

INCLUDING THEIR

Civil and Criminal Laws, Establishments, &c.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE

Climate, Buildings, Towns, & Sea Ports;

WITH THE

TREATMENT AND CONDITION

OF THE

NEGROES:

An Account of the Lands in Cultivation,

AND THE

NATURAL & VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS, EXPORTS, &c.

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Anti-slavery

HISTORY

OF THE

WEST INDIES.

WHENE'ER I think of your peaceful groves, oh! my country, I feel that sweet, that social glow, which softens while it delights—soothes, as pleasing sadness steals o'er the frame. I view again your fruitful vallies, your stately trees; mark the tall cocoa, and the luxuriant cane; then give the pause to reflection, as some lowly shrub claims my attention: some noxious reptile next intrudes on the scene I fain would describe as peaceful: 'tis slavery!—I know your mein—the languid eye fixed in despair, the look of deep dejection, bespeaks the victim of a living death. When speaking of the negro race, I hope sensibility may never render me regardless of truth: though born in that land, where the voice of oppression too often stifles the nobler passions of the soul, I still fondly recall to mind the sigh of sympathy heaved from the bosom of the philanthropist, at the unredressed grievances of the sable sons and daughters of misfortune.

Historians have described the negroes, as beings insensible to every event of life; indifferent, careless, and divested of feeling: that apathy has supplied the place of keener sensations. I must allow that ill usage begets callosity, and creates despondency, hence that seeming carelessness. the effect of subjection, which destroys energy and subdues impulse. A twenty years' residence in the West Indies, has enabled me to observe, with accuracy, their customs and manners; and while I feel the tenderest emotions towards that spot, where first I drew the breath of life, I cannot but lament, that people, whose characteristic is hospitality and benevolence, should, cherishing the one, prove unmindful of the other, towards a race of beings, whose unfortunate and defenceless state entitles them to sympathy and kindness. Methinks I hear some son of indolence exclaim, whom but the slaves to work our plantations? 'tis in consideration of their valuable services that I would recommend kind treatment; use the eloquent

correction of the tongue, but spare the whip; some say they are too hardened to feel the effects of the former, and can only be rendered serviceable by the latter. What proof of the insensibility of that man who is not permitted to judge or act for himself; yet in spite of subjection, in spite of tyranny, some act, bespeaking the soul's great powers, will, as rays of light, break through the cheerless gloom.

I once witnessed the filial love of a young negro, at the grave of his father: his back was bleeding with the lashes he had just received, for (as I afterwards learned) stealing a plantain; but he robbed not for himself; 'twas for the father he loved:—In the most supplicating manner, raising his eyes towards Heaven—he exclaimed, "And you, God! over all the world, who delights in seeing people happy, conceal from him the lashes I have received; let him eat of the plantain, and much good may it do him!" The negroes fancifully imagine the dead can eat, and possessed with this idea, daily lay food on the grave; which being stolen by the runaway negroes, encourages the strange notion.——The pain of his lascerated back appeared not to affect him; his heart alone, filled with the warm burnings of filial love, inspired him with that generous glow, which rises superior to selfish considerations. No sentiment of revenge, no exclamation of indignation, burst from his lips, at this unjust treatment: one sweet, one pious idea possessed him, and he prayed to the "God over all the world," to conceal from his father his sufferings, lest they should embitter his enjoyment.——Christians and slave-masters! will ye still assert, a negroe is void of feeling.

The West Indians in general are warm hearted, generous, and hospitable; free in their houses, and uncommonly convivial at entertainments, of which they make a great many; on those occasions the most pleasing gaiety prevails, a gaiety unmixed with revelry; good-will supplies the place of formality, and banishes restraint, which is the destroyer of sociality: fastidiousness becomes dispensed with, and the smile of the host is reflected on the countenance of his guest, who seldom leaves the festive board till the sun begins to rise. Every thing that can please the eye or palate is here to be met with; but what renders these entertainments the most costly, is the desert, which is composed of the choicest sweetmeats, dried and wet. The wines are of an exquisite flavour, sherry, port, Madeira, pink Champaign, claret, pink, white, and purple

Noyeau, with some others equally excellent. A spirit of unbounded liberality distinguishes the West Indians, and marks their every action: susceptible, impetuous, and possessed of quick feelings, their passions, as ripe fruit, is ready to burst forth. Accustomed from early infancy to have their wishes anticipated, the slightest disappointment is considered insupportable, and too often produces that severity which is the greatest stain on their characters.

Petulant and irritable, the females in this country are even more tyrannical than the men; for not totally divested of frivolity, they are troubled with many artificial wants; imperious and overbearing, the West Indian woman knows not self-command, and gives free indulgence to caprice; gifted with strong mental powers, indolence prevents her from cultivating them; averse to whatever requires exertion, though a proficient in music, she rarely enjoys this pleasing amusement, but yields to apathy; if she walks, she complains of fatigue; if she works, she is oppressed with lassitude; and, if she does neither, she is still dissatisfied.

In dress, both sex are expensive, particularly so in their linen, which is excessive fine. The men in common, wear a linen coat called a fly, this is made loose, and freely admits the air; the collar of their shirt is left open, for they dispense with both neckcloth and waistcoat; their under clothes for coolness, is chiefly nankeen, and on their head they wear a light beaver hat lined with green; black being considered too warm from its attracting the sun.

The females dress after the manner of the ladies in England, from whence they regularly have the fashions sent out. Uncommonly fond of show, their ornaments are very costly: they wear their hair much dressed, and dispose it with great taste; its colour which is usually dark brown, or black, is well calculated to set off their countenance, which is pale, yet expressive, with features the most striking; for there brilliant lustre of their eyes, the West Indian ladies have been deservedly celebrated. A langour the most interesting, marks their every movement; in shape they are peculiarly graceful, notwithstanding they wear only a slight bodice made of calico or India dimity; they dispense with whalebone, to which reason I attribute the elasticity of their form.

Dancing is the favourite amusement of the West Indians; this appears rather singular, that in a climate so intensely they should choose a diversion of all others the most

calculated to create fatigue. They are remarkably fond of theatrical performances, and sometimes support different characters with great ingenuity and spirit; besides these, they have assemblies and card parties, which in general are numerously attended, as they are great lovers of social intercourse.

The usual beverage for the morning is coffee, with which they eat roasted plantains, yams, or bread; some sliced Avocado pear as a relish, or eggs, ham, and tongue. They usually dine about one, to enjoy the salubrious breeze which arises at that hour. Their victuals, with the exception of a few dishes, which I shall enumerate, is dressed after the European manner, but all highly seasoned with Cayenne pepper: they abound with fish, poultry, and all kinds of butcher's meat: their veal is seldom older than six weeks, its flavour is delightful, being fed on nothing but milk; a quarter of a kid roasted, surpasses the finest house lamb. Their poultry, which is sold by weight, is exceeding good; the turkies in particular, are much larger than in England, and of a finer flavour. Guinea fowls roasted are a great favourite with the natives, who have on their tables a plentiful assortment of vegetables: at meals they drink bottled porter, punch and grog in the afternoon. The middling class of people again drink coffee, while those of the higher, as in England, have tea and coffee; some choose chocolate for supper, while others have fish of all sorts, boiled or broiled, well seasoned with Cayenne pepper; without which, they seldom make a meal. They frequently have salt salmon, mackerel, and cod, which comes from America; or salt beef, from England or Ireland: pot victuals is more generally preferred to roasted meats. The fowl pot is considered good eating; it is composed of a fowl, a small quantity of pickled pork, yams, and other pulse; pigeon pease, sugar, beans, capsicums, green pease, Cayenne pepper, and several other ingredients; to the pork pot, is sometimes added a piece of veal: there is another dish highly esteemed by the natives, consisting of Irish salt beef, fowls, veal, yams, sugar, beans, Indian corn, and Cayenne pepper.

They are great observers of festivals, such as births, or wedding-days; after these entertainments, they send a plate of the choicest sweetmeats and confections to the house of each guest. Their houses are mostly from two to three stories high, all, except a very few, built of fine

thin split boards, called shingles, instead of slates or tiles. Windows are seldom seen in this country, glass being inconvenient on account of the heat in the room; for which they use gauze frames; some have only shutters made like folding doors, which are kept open from six in the morning, till six in the evening; others have Venetian blinds or lattices. The rooms are seldom papered or plastered, but beautifully wainscotted with cedar, Brazil, and mahogany wood; the furniture in general is very light, adapted to the climate—the rooms are elegantly adorned with paintings, gildings, chandeliers, quantities of china, plate, and other valuables, according to the wealth of the possessor.

Most houses have wells dug in the rock, which afford but a brackish kind of beverage, only used for the cattle. The West Indians have cisterns, in which they preserve rain water for their own consumption, letting it first drop through a filtering stone into large jars made for the purpose by the native Indians. The West Indians of every denomination sleep in hammocks; those used by the opulent, are made of cotton, ornamented with rich fringe, worth from twenty to thirty guineas,—they have an awning to keep off the musquitoes; though some people lie on bedsteads surrounded, instead of curtains, with gauze pavillions, which admits the air freely, and at the same time, keeps off the smallest insect; the more luxurious have two and three negroes to fan them during the night. The kitchens are always built at some distance from the house, where the victuals is dressed upon the floor; the stoves resemble a dog or cauldron. The cooks who are always negro-men, have a female slave under them, who acts as scullion; they are excessive particular, and for the cleanliness of their culinary utensils, might put to the blush the nicest European servant.

The linen, which it seldom washed at home, is carried by the negroes, into the field, close by a spring,—for they wash in cold water, but usually boil the linen; after which, should any stain appear, it is well rubbed with Castile soap and carefully spread on the grass; the intense heat of the sun immediately draws out the stains, even those of wine. During the time of drying, the negroes usually watch the clothes. Some rub the linen with rock stones, which is a very bad custom, and tends to destroy the linen much sooner than fair wearing. The Castile soap, which is always used for washing, even to the hands

and face, is considered much cheaper than any other soap, on account of the drawback. It is also very good to wash the heads of children, and demeed serviceable in many other respects.

Weddings in the West Indies, are extremely magnificent, generally concluding with an elegant ball. Their funerals are also very expensive, at which they drink burnt wine, and eat the finest cakes: three hundred people have been known to attend a funeral, to all of whom burnt wine and cake has been given. When the owner of a plantation (or any other person of consequence) dies, every one of his negroes follows the mournful train, clad in mourning; the deepest of which, with them, is a jacket and coat of dark blue long cloth, with two black and white handkerchiefs, one tied round the head, and another under the chin: for second mourning, the negroes wear white, which contrasted with the sable hue of their skin, forms an appearance the most singular. When a negro dies, he is brought to the door of his owner by his relations, who with loud exclamations, declares the unwillingness of the deceased to leave his master; sighs, groans, and lamentations, with dismal shrieks, are then uttered: when these have sufficiently bespoke his fidelity and attachment, the corpse is quietly removed to the place of interment. The West Indians are usually wrapped in a winding sheet, besides the shroud.

Children are dressed in their best clothes, some having flowers fancifully strewed over them, look most beautiful, and might well represent innocence, slumbering amid the sweets of spring. Nothing displays the pride of the West Indians more than the number of slaves by whom they are attended: these in some families, amount to thirty or forty, they are called household negroes, and experience far better treatment than the field or plantation negroes. Many an European servant would be happy to fare as well; they eat of the same as their owners, but are never allowed the freedom of cutting their own victuals; they have a plate of food given to them, more or less, according to the liberality of their owners. The women are excellent seamstresses, and well skilled in all kinds of curious needle works; they wear chintz jackets and coats, and a fine India muslin handkerchief tied round their head in the form of a bandeau; their arms and legs are generally ornamented with bracelets, while round their neck they wear a gold barley-corn necklace: of this ornament, both

the mulattoes and negroes are particularly fond. Some wear round their neck valuable lockets with cyphers, costly ear-rings, beads, medals, coins, and a variety of other things. Each finger is decorated with a ring.

The men are regularly brought up to different trades, and make excellent mechanics. Those who wait at table, have liveries like European footmen; others wear a jacket and trowsers, made of light fustian or dowlass: the negro children of both sexes, go entirely naked, with the exception of a very few, who wear a little dowlass coat. All of them have beads round their arms, legs and neck. The negroes sleep on the ground, without any kind of bed; the jongo, or waiting-woman, generally sleeps in an anti-chamber on a plantain leaf bed: though, in general, the negroes prefer laying in the coolest place.—To each house, there is a spacious entrance or hall, where may be seen groupes of negroes laying on the ground, sometimes above twenty. They are very early risers, and go through the fatigues of the day with seeming ease; they are cheerful, lively and gay, while their more indolent employers are sinking under the oppressive heat, become the prey of lassitude, and will not stoop even to pick up the smallest trifle.

No female is to be seen walking in the streets till after one o'clock, when the anxiously expected breeze has refreshed the air. The safety of most of the towns in the West Indies, is entrusted to the burghers or militia, who keep watch during the night: at six o'clock in the morning, and the same hour in the evening, the morning and evening guns are fired by the commanding ship in the harbour. At the evening signal, all the flags are instantly lowered on board the different vessels, their bells are set a ringing, while the drums and fifes beat the tattoo through the town: the watch is then set, and no negroe of either sex, is permitted to appear in the streets, withou ta proper pass signed by his owner; without which, he is taken up, and severely flogged the next morning.

At ten at night, a band of black drums, beat the burgher or militia retreat through the streets; the martial sound, as it dies away, or is lost in distance, pleasingly invades the tranquility of the silent hour, and soothes the feelings, powerfully awakened by the soft lustre of the moon, which, in the West Indies, shines with uncommon brightness.

The largest island we possess in this part of the world is JAMAICA, situated in the Atlantic ocean, in about 18° 12′ north latitude, and in longitude, about 76° 47′ west from London. The climate, though tempered and greatly mitigated, is exceeding hot, with little variation from January to December. The days and nights are nearly equal, there being little more than two hours difference between the longest day and the shortest: the twilight is of but short duration. When it is twelve o'clock at noon in London, it is about seven in the morning at Jamaica. A tropical year, seems properly to comprehend but two seasons, the wet and the dry; but as the rains in these climates, constitute two great periods, they are best described as the European year under four divisions. The vernal season or spring, may be said to commence with the month of May, when the foliage of the trees evidently become more luxuriant, and the parched savannahs begin to change their russet hue. Even previous to the first periodical rains which are now daily expected, and generally set in about the middle of the month; these, compared with the autumnal rains, may be almost called gentle showers, they come from the south, and generally fall every day about noon, and break up with thunder storms, creating a bright and beautiful verdure, and a rapid and luxuriant vegetation. The thermometer at this season varies considerably, commonly falling six or eight degrees; immediately after the diurnal rains, its medium height may be stated at 75°. After these rains have continued about a fortnight, the weather becomes dry, settled, and salubrious; the tropical summer reigning in full glory, not a cloud is perceptible, and the sky blazes with irresistible fierceness. For some hours, generally between seven and ten in the morning, before the setting in of the sea breeze, or trade wind, which at this season blows from the south-east, with great force and regularity, until late in the evening, the heat is hardly supportable; but, no sooner is the influence felt of this refreshing wind, than all nature revives, and the climate in the shade, becomes not only very tolerable, but pleasant.

The nights at this season, are exquisitely lovely; the transcendant lustre of the heavens—the serenity of the air, and the soft tranquility in which nature reposes, conspires to harmonize the mind and produce the most calm, and delightful sensations. The moon, too, in these climates,

displays far greater radiance than in Europe; the smallest print is legible by her light, and in the moon's absence, her place is not ill supplied by the brightness of the milky way, and by that glorious planet Venus, which appears here like a little moon, and glitters with so refulgent a beam as to cast a shade from trees, buildings, and other objects—making full amends for the short stay and abrupt departure of the twilight.

In the mountainous and interior parts of the larger islands, innumerable fire-flies abound at night, which have a surprising appearance to strangers; they consist of different species: some of which emit a light resembling a spark of fire, from a globular prominence near each eye—and others from their sides, in the act of respiration; they are far more luminous than the glow-worm, and fill the air on all sides like so many living stars, to the great astonishment and admiration of a traveller unaccustomed to the country. In the day-time they disappear. These insects are above an inch long, with a round patch under the belly of a transparent greenish colour, which in the dark gives a light like a candle; its eyes are particularly luminous, and by the light of a couple of these flies, a person can read the smallest print with facility.

The state of the weather continues with little variation from the beginning of June, until the middle of August, when the diurnal breeze begins to intermit, and the atmosphere becomes sultry, close, and suffocating. In the latter end of this month, and most part of September, the natives look about in vain for coolness and comfort. The rain seldom begins to fall with violence until the beginning of October, it is then, that the heavens pour down cataracts. In the interval, between the beginning of August, and the latter end of October, hurricanes, those dreadful visitations of the Almighty, are apprehended. Earthquakes, also, are not unfrequent, but none have been productive of mischief since the fatal one of June, 1692, which swallowed up Port Royal. Slight shocks are felt in Jamaica every year, generally about June, immediately after the May rains. Towards the end of November, and sometimes not till the middle of December, a considerable change in the temperature of the air is perceptible: if this interval, therefore, from the beginning of December, to the end of April, be called winter, it is undoubtedly the finest winter on the globe. To invalids, and persons ad-

In Barbadoes, and most of the islands to windward, the sea breeze blows as well by night as by day; it is sometimes the case in Jamaica, in the months of June and July.—On the seventh of June, 1692, happened that tremendous earthquake, which swallowed up Port Royal.—This day is declared, by an act of the assembly, to be established as a perpetual anniversary fast, in commemoration of this calamity. The year 1774, was distinguished by another destructive conflict of the elements; and in 1780, after a long respite, began that dreadful succession of hurricanes, which, with the exceptions of 1782 and 1783, desolated this and some of the neighbouring islands, for seven years together.

The general appearance of the country differs greatly from most parts of Europe; yet, the north and south sides of the island, which are separated by a vast chain of mountains, extending from east to west, differ at the same time, widely from each other. On beholding the northern side of the country, which constitutes the parish of St. Anne, the scenery is superlatively fine; the country at a little distance from the shore rises into hills, which are more remarkable for beauty than boldness; being all of gentle aclivity, and commonly separated from each other by spacious vales and romantic inequalities; they are seldom craggy, nor is the transitions from the hills to the vallies abrupt: in general, the hand of nature, has rounded every hill towards the top with singular felicity; the most striking circumstance attending these beautiful swells, is the happy disposal of the groves of pimento, with which most of them are spontaneously crowned; and the lovely verdure of the turf underneath, which is discernable in a thousand openings, presenting a charming contrast to the deeper tints of the pimento. As this tree, which is no less remarkable for fragrance than beauty, suffers no other plant to flourish within its shade. These groves are not only clear of underwood, but even the grass beneath is seldom luxuriant; the soil in general being a chalky marl, which produces a close and clean turf, as smooth and even as the finest English lawn, and in colour far more bright. Over this beautiful surface, the pimento spreads itself in various compartments: in one place we behold extensive groves,—in another a number of charming groupes, some of which clothe the hills, while others are dispersed about the declivities; embellishing the scene, and adding perfec-

watered the whole district, and indeed, no other part of the West Indies, abound with so many delightful streams; each valley has its rivulet, and each hill its cascade. In one point of view, where the rocks overhang the ocean, no less than eight transparent water-falls are beheld in the same moment; such is the foreground of the picture.—As the land rises towards the centre of the island, the eye, passing over beauties already described, is attracted by a boundless ampitheatre of wood, and an immensity of forest; the outline of which, melts into the distant blue hills, and, these again are lost in the clouds.

On the southern side of the island, the scenery is of a different nature; the prevailing characteristics of the landscape are, variety and beauty. On approaching this side of the island by sea, and viewing from afar, such of the stupendous and towering ridges of the blue mountains, as the clouds here and there disclose. The mind is struck with admiration, and even awe;—yet, though the prospect is magnificent in the highest degree, it seems a scene of magnificent desolation. The rugged precipice and inaccessible cliff, have more the appearance of a chaos than a creation: the prospect however improves, for amid ten thousand bold features, too hard to be softened by culture, many a spot is discoverable, where the hand of industry has awakened life and fertility. With these pleasing intermixtures, the lower range of mountains are diversified, and by powerful contrast, soften the rude solemnity of the loftier eminences, until the savannahs at the bottom meet the sight: these are extensive plains, clothed principally with cane fields, displaying in all the pride of cultivation, the verdure of spring, blended with the luxuriance of autumn. These are bounded by the ocean, on whose bosom a new and ever-moving picture strikes the eye; for innumerable vessels are seen in different directions,—some crowding into, and others bearing away from, the bays and harbours, with which the coast is every where indented.

The night air is sometimes astonishing cool, and even at noon day, a fire is not only very acceptable, but necessary. At Cold Spring, which is six miles further up the country, the soil is a black mould or brown marl, but few or none of the tropical fruits will flourish in so cold a region; neither the nesberry, the Avocado pear, the star-apple, nor the orange, will bear within a considerable height of this place; but many of the English fruits, such as the apple, peach, and strawberrry, flourish there in

great perfection, with several other valuable exotics: among which, are a great number of very fine plants of the tea-tree, and other oriental productions. The ground, in its native state, is almost entirely covered with various sorts of fern; of which, there are four hundred distinct species.

Among the birds, peculira to these lofty regions, are a species of the swallow; the plumage of which varies in colour, like the neck of a drake. There is also a very fine song bird, called the Fish Eye, of a blackish brown; with a white ring round the neck.——The district of Pedro plains, deserves particular notice: it is a level country on a high bluff, called Pedro Point; situated on the South-west coast, in the parish of St. Elizabeth. Pedro Plains differ from every other savannah in the island; from the district of Fullerswood, in St. Elizabeth's parish, it runs eastward along the coast, on an easy ascent to the highest ridge, which is called Tophill; from whence it stretches inland more than twenty miles in length, and about five in width; it is not unlike the downs in some parts of England, and is beautifully dotted with clumps of wood; among which, the Aloe, torch, thistle, and other plants of that genus flourish in great luxuriance, from half an acre, to many acres in extent; the soil in colour, is of the deepest red, baked hard on the surface by the heat of the sun; but, of so porous a nature, as to absorb the heaviest rains as fast as they fall.

The herbage in general is coarse, nevertheless it maintains thousands of neat cattle and horses, and in no part of the world, is the latter found nearer to a state of nature. As the whole of this district is unfurnished with springs, or even ponds of any duration, the stock are compelled to go for water to the wells, which are sunk in the lower part of the country; at which time the hunters have opportunities of catching them, and contrivances are made for that purpose.

The breed is very hardy, but somewhat restive from their wild nature. The air of this district, though not cold, is astonishingly dry and elastic, and so mild withal, that a European sportsman may pursue his game the whole day, without feeling incommoded by the heat; and he will find excellent sport in following the Galena, or Wild Guinea Fowl, which is to be met with here in great abundance.

The mutton raised here, is equal, if not superior, to the finest down mutton in England. The fruits and vegetables of all kinds are excellent; the water melon in particular, ranks with the first of fruits; its coolness, crispness and flavour, are equalled only by the beauty of the rind, which is mottled in shades of green, and has a gloss like the polish of marble; on the whole, for beauty of prospect, for purity and dryness of air, and a climate exempt from either extreme of heat or cold, Pedro plains may vie with any spot on the habitable globe.

Jamaica, is one hundred and fifty miles in length, and about forty miles in breadth: the lands in cultivation, may be distributed nearly as follows:—In sugar plantations, (including the land reserved in woods, for the purpose of supplying timber and fire wood, or for common pasturage; all of which, is two thirds of each plantation). The number of acres, may be stated at 690,000. Breeding or grazing farms, (or as they are usually called in the island, pens) the number is about one thousand; to each of which, may be allowed seven hundred acres, which gives seven hundred thousand; and nearly half the quantity to the lesser productions—as cotton, coffee, pimento, and ginger, including even the provision plantations; the whole amounts to 1,740,000 acres, leaving upwards of two million acres an unimproved unproductive wilderness; yet, nevertheless, the mountains are in general covered with extensive woods; containing excellent timber, some of which are of prodigious growth and and solidity—such as the lignum vitæ, dog wood, iron wood, pigeon wood, green heart, braziletto, and bully trees, most of which, are so close and heavy, as to sink in water. Some of these are essential in milk work, and would be very valuable in the windward islands; they are even so in such parts of Jamaica, as having been long cultivated, are nearly cleared of contiguous woods; of softer kinds, for boards and shingles, the species are innumerable. There are many beautiful varieties, adapted for cabinet work; among others, the bread nut, the wild lemon, and the mahogany; the trees and shrubs that adorn the face of the country, are singular for the richness of their tints, and the depth of their shadows.

The palm, the cocoa nut, the mountain cabbage, and the plantain, when blended with the tamarind, the orange, and other trees, form a contrast the most pleasing; and these, interspersed with the waving [illegible]

canes, the striking aspect of the Jerusalem thorn, the bushy richness of the Oleander and African rose, the glowing red of the Scarlet cordium, the fragrant bowers of the jessimine and Grenadilla vines, affords a prospect that enchants while it pleases.

There are in this country, above one hundred rivers, which takes their rise in the mountains, and flow with great rapidity to the sea on both sides of the island; none of them are deep enough to be navigated by marine vessels. Black river, in St. Elizabeth's parish, running chiefly through a level country, is the deepest and gentlest, and admits flat bottomed boats and canoes, about thirty miles.

Of the springs, which commonly abound even in the highest mountains; some are medicinal, and allowed to be of great efficacy in disorders incidental to the climate. The most remarkable of these, is found in the eastern parish of St. Thomas; the fame of which has created a village in its neighbouhood, it is called the Bath: the water runs out of a rocky mountain about one mile distant, and is too hot to permit a hand being held underneath,—It is sulphurous, and has been used with great success in that terrible malady of the climate—the dry belly ache. There are ether springs, both sulphureous and chalybeate, in different parts of the country.

In many parts of Jamaica, there is a great appearance of metals; a lead mine was opened some years ago near the Hope estate, in the parish of St. Andrew, and it was said, there appeared no want of ore, but the high price of labour caused the proprietors to abandon their project.—Among the dismal catalogue of diseases, peculiar to the climate—to avoid prolixity, I shall only mention the most conspicuous. Of fevers, there are various kinds, the treatment of which differs according to their nature; but in a climate so intensely hot, prevention may be considered the best cure, and the slightest symptom should be regarded with the most serious attention; a trifling scratch becomes almost immediately a running sore; the best remedy for which, is lemon or lime juice, or an application of grey paper, wetted with spirits, or any kind of moisture, so as to cause adhesion. The dry belly ache, is a very common complaint, and not only causes excruciating pain but it is very dangerous. Thousands have fell a victim to this disease: another disorder, peculiar to the climate, is that called the ring worm; it consists of long scarlet ir-

which increases in size from day to day, unless timely prevented; these marks or spots are surrounded by a hard callous border, and are as troublesome from their itching, as the prickly heat, or the sting of a musquitoe: so very infectious is this complaint, that if any person seats himself, by chance, on a chair immediately after another who has the disorder, he is almost certain to become infected; it is very difficult to get rid of.—The best cure, is to rub the spots with a composition of refined salt petre, benzion, flour of brimstone, and white mercury, mixed with fresh butter or hog's lard. The prickly heat, is a distemper which begins by the skin taking a colour like scarlet, occasioned by a number of small pimples, and itching inconceivably under the garters, or any place where the circulation is impeded. With this pest, all new comers from Europe are tormented. The cure is to bathe the parts affected with the juice of limes and water; the prickly heat is considered by the inhabitants, indicative of perfect health and sound constitution.

I shall next treat of the chigoe, which is a kind of small sand flea, that gets in between the skin and the flesh without its being felt, and usually under the nails of the toes; where while it feeds, it keeps growing till it becomes the size of a large pea; causing no further pain than a troublesome itching. In the course of time, it appears in the form of a small bladder; in which are deposited thousands of eggs or nits, and which, if it breaks, produce so many chigoes, that in time, create running ulcers, very dangerous in their consequence to the sufferer.—The moment therefore, that one perceives a kind of redness attended with itching about the feet, it is necessary to begin extracting the chigoe; this is done with a sharp pointed needle, at which operation, the negro girls are wonderful clever; taking great pains to prevent the chigoe or bladder from breaking in the wound. When the chigoe is extracted, some tobacco ashes must be put in the orifice, which effects a speedy cure. During the rainy seasons, and particularly on the banks of creeks and rivers, numerous musquitoes are seen; these insects particularly infest strangers, though none are secured from their attacks: wherever they insert their proboscis, and remain uninterrupted, they suck the blood till they are hardly able to fly. Every puncture they make, is succeeded by a large blotch or tumour, accompanied with an itching, which is scarcely endurable. The

is distinguished by a buzzing noise. The candles are no sooner lit than they are stuck full of them, in the same manner as moths in England flit about a candle; all kinds of food and drink are exposed to their disagreeable visits, from which, even the mouth and the eyes are not exempted. The best cure for their sting, is an application of the juice of lemons or limes, mixed with water; which is also a tolerable perservation against their attack. We will now turn from the gloomy contemplation of disease, and solace ourselves with nature's fairest prospects.

The sugar cane, as most productive, claims pre-eminence.—I will, therefore, in as concise a manner as possible, describe a sugar plantation. The building consists of an elegant dwelling-house for the planter, out-houses for the overseer and book-keeper, besides a carpenter's lodge, kitchen's, store-houses and stables.

Some sugar mills are worked by horses or mules, but in many places (as on the hope estate) these are not necessary, as the wheels move by water, stored in canals, during the spring tide, by means of sluices which being opened at low water, pour out like a deluge, and set the machinary in motion.

A sugar mill is built at the expence of four thousand, nay, sometimes seven thousand pounds; the large water wheel moves perpendicularly, and corresponds with another large wheel in an horizontal direction, and this again acts upon three cylinders or rollers, of cast iron, supported underneath by a strong beam; so close together, that when the whole is in motion, they draw in and squeeze as thin as paper, whatever comes between them. In this manner, the sugar cane is bruised to separate the juice or liquor from the trash; those mills that are worked by cattle, are constructed upon the same principles, only, the horses or mules answer the purpose of the horizontal wheel, by dragging round a large lever. If the water mills work the fastest and be the cheapest, yet as they must wait for the tides, they can only work part of the day; whereas, the cattle mills are constantly ready whenever the proprietor thinks proper to use them. Contiguous to the mill-house, is a spacious apartment built of brick, in which are fixed the coppers or large cauldrons, to boil the liquid sugar, these are usually five in number; opposite to which, are the coolers—these are large flat bottomed wooden vessels, into which the sugar is put from the

are placed near the coolers upon strong channelled rafters, that receive the molasses as it drops from the sugar, and conveys it into a square cistern placed underneath to receive it. The distillery joins this apartment, where the dross or scum of the boiling sugar is converted into a kind of rum.

The sugar estates contain from five to six hundred acres, the parts for cultivation being separated into squares; where pieces of cane about one foot long are stuck in the ground, in an oblique position, in rows straight and paralel: they usually plant them in the rainy season, when the earth is well soaked and rich. The shoots that spring from these joints are about twelve or sixteen; they are not long in arriving at maturity; when they become yellow and of the thickness of a German flute, from six to ten feet in height, and jointed, forming a very beautiful appearance, with pale green leaves, like those of a leak, but longer and denticulated; and which hang down as the crop becomes ready for cutting.

The principal business of the slaves during the growth of the canes, is pulling up the weeds, which would otherwise impoverish them. Some sugar estates have above four-hundred slaves, the expence of purchasing these, and erecting the buildings, frequently amounts to twenty or twenty-five thousand pounds sterling: exclusive of the value of the ground. In its progress through the mill, it is bruised between the cylinders or rollers, through which it passes twice; once it enters, and once it returns. When it is changed to trash, and its pithy substance into liquid, which is conducted, as extracted, through a groved beam, from the mill to the boiling-house, where it is received into a kind of wooden cistern. So very dangerous is the work of those negroes who attend the rollers, that should one of their fingers be caught between them, which frequently happens through inadvertence, the whole arm is instantly shattered to pieces, if not part of the body; a hatchet is generally kept ready to chop off the limb, before the working of the mill can be stopped. From the above wooden cistern, the liquor is let into the first copper cauldron, filtering through a grating, to keep back the trash that may have escaped from the mill: here, having boiled sometime and been scummed, it is put into the next cauldron, and so on, till the fifth or last; when it is brought to a proper thickness or consistency, so as to be admitted into the coolers; a few pounds of lime and

allum are thrown into the cauldrons to make it granulate: thus, it is boiled gradually, stronger and stronger, until it reaches the last cauldron; when it is put in the wooden coolers, the sugar is well stirred and scattered throughout the vessels; when cold, it has a frozen appearance, being candied of a brown glazed consistency, not unlike pieces of high polished walnut-tree. From the cooler it is put into the hogsheads, which upon an average, will hold one thousand weight of sugar; there it settles, and through the crevices and small holes made in the bottoms, it is purged of its liquid contents, which are called melasses, and are received in an under ground cistern: this is the last operation, after which, the sugar is fit for exportation to Europe, where it is refined and cast into loaves.—The larger the grain the better the sugar; the chaff, refuse, and leaves of the cane, are used for fuel and manure. The joints of some of the larger canes, measure from eight to nine inches in length, and six in circumference; their colour, and that of the leaves, is a bright green. The leaves are narrow and erect, their juice is likewise of a deep green colour, they are ripe enough to grind in ten months.

Each plantation has an overseer, and a deputy overseer, or, as he is more commonly called, a negro driver. This being, as the dog among sheep, continually harasses and worries the poor slaves: if he observes one of the wretched sufferers momentarily suspending his work, to wipe off the big drops of prespiration, immediately the whip is applied, and its keen smart awakens the unfortunate deviater to a sense of his duty; uncomplaining, he resumes the laborious task. Weakened, enervated, and subdued, mental anguish is added to the severest corporeal pangs, and the poor slave performs the part allotted him with the listlessness of one who yields to despair. These miserable creatures commence their wearisome task from sun rise to sun set; during which, they are not allowed the smallest interval of rest; and what is still more cruel, should they attempt to taste of the sugar produced by the sweat of their brow, the penalty is the loss of several teeth, which the inhuman overseer fails not to knock down their throat.

The plantation or field negroes are entirely naked, save a bit of coarse linen round their loins. Their food is horse beans parched, pickled herring, or shad, salt fish, and guinea corn, made into a pudding—very similar to an

English peas pudding; some, who are more fortunate, have occasionally, a smal portion of pickled pork; but this is considered a rarity. However, I am willing to represent their treatment in the most favourable light; I am sorry to say, the negroes are far more cruelly used by the European settlers, than the West Indians—who feel a kind of partiality toward these children of misfortune.—Perhaps, from the circumstance, that most of them are suckled by the negro women, who bestows and receives the affection due to a parent.

The warmth of the climate prevents the West India ladies from fulfilling those maternal duties, so peculiarly endearing, and the care of their offspring is consigned to the negro or mulatto woman. When I speak of the treatment of the natives toward the negroes, being more humane than that of the Europeans, I would wish to be rightly understood, nor impute to humanity what, perhaps, belongs to self-interest.——As the English farmer prizes his stock, so does the West India planter his negroes, who are far more valuable. Historians, when writing of slaves, have classed them under one general head, when in fact, there is as much distinction among them, as in England, between the day labourer and the more prosperous mechanic. I will now faithfully describe their treatment, from the moment they quit the Guinea ships, and while I record their sufferings, ill usage, comforts or privileges, I hope and trust, truth will be my only guide.

The negroes are composed of different African nations:—The Abo, Conia, Blitay, Coromantin, Congo, Gango. Konare, Zoko, Riemba, Loangou, Nago, Papa, Pombo, and Wanway. These unfortunate people, are in the first instance, conducted by two sailors (one walking before and the other behind, with a Bamboo rattan, to enforce obedience) to the factories, erected by different nations upon the coast: where they are sold (or more properly speaking, exchanged) to the Europeans, for bars of iron, fire arms, carpenter's tools, or other articles: such as—chests, linens, hats, knives, tobacco and spirits. They are next embarked for exportation, without the last sad consolation, of bidding adieu to all they hold dear in life: their wives, their children, or their parents:

Stupified with grief, the agonized negro silently bears his wrongs, and, for this tame submission to a power he cannot resist, he is called an insensible being, alone worthy of his fate. But this is not the case, rather let

cept it as the excuse of those, who bartering every sentiment for sordid lucre, wish to palliate their cruel conduct. Sometimes above three or four hundred wretched victims are stowed together in a dark loathsome hold; the heads of both sexes are shaved, to give them a youthful appearance on their arrival. The men are kept in chains, to prevent their revolting; and fed, during the passage, on horse beans parched, with a little salt to render them palatable. A scanty supply of brackish water is their only beverage; to all this anguish is added the most torturing suspense, for as the sexes are separated, should their wives or relatives be in the same ship, the pleasing knowledge is withheld from them.——Such is the spirit of cruelty, that exists in the bosom of some planters—that I have known them, after purchasing two negroes, who proved to be husband and wife, send them to different plantations; what must be the feelings of these poor creatures when relieved from suspense? they prove certainty still more insupportable: in vain, they send forth the lengthened sigh, or cast a lingering look of fond regret, at the beloved objects of early attachment.

No sooner is a Guinea ship arrived, than all the slaves are led upon deck, where they are refreshed with pure air, oranges, bananas, and plantains: they are properly washed, and their hair shaved in different fanciful figures, of stars and half-moons. This they generally do one to the other, (having no razors) by the aid of a broken bottle, and without soap. After this operation, one part of them is sent a shore for sale, decorated with pieces of cotton, arm-bands, beads, and other ornaments, being all the captain's property; while the others spend the day in dancing, hallooing, and clapping hands on board the vessel, almost forgetful of their companions who walk along, the water side and through the streets, where every planter selects out the number of which he stands in need, to supply the place of those lost by death or desertion.

Good negroes are generally valued at from fifty to one hundred guineas each; amongst these, should a woman happen to be pregnant, her price is increased; a negro infant being estimated worth ten pounds at the moment of its birth. The next step, before the conclusion of the bargain, is to cause the negroes for sale, to mount a hogshead or table, where they are examined by a surgeon who obliges them to make a variety of gestures with their arms and legs, to prove their soundness. Satisfied of this

the money is immediately paid down: as soon as the purchase is made, a new name is given to the slave, and he or she, is consigned to an older one of the same sex, who conveys the negro to the estate—where he is properly kept clean by his guardian, instructed, and and well fed, without working, for six weeks; during which period, from living skeletons they become plump and fat, with a beautiful clean skin. If the newly bought negro is intended to fill a domestic office, he fares tolerably, is well provided for, and experiences no want; when sick, a doctor constantly attends him.

The domestic females also, are treated with particular tenderness during their pregnancy, and carefully provided with a granny. The grannies, so called, are females, who act as midwives to the West India ladies, as well as the negresses, men being seldom employed, except in cases of imminent danger; though they are kept in the house ready to obey the first summons.—But, of the plantation or field negroes, I cannot speak so favourably; they are really a race of miserable wretches, naked, half-starved, and ill used—Some of the women, have a small waistcoat and petticot made of dowlass, others only a piece of linen round their loins. Exposed to the scorching rays of a meridian sun, they are compelled to work without intermission; no refreshing draught allays their tormenting thirst—even a drop of rain water is denied them by the deputy overseer, or jumper, as he is called by the negroes. This person, who is always a white man, visits the plantation usually twice a week; to him all complaints are referred, and should any of these unhappy beings, impelled by hunger, steal a morsel you would not deny a favourite dog, they are unmercifully flogged: nay, for the most trivial offence, they receive two or three-hundred lashes: notwithstanding this severity, they art faithful and strongly attached to their master, having his interest at heart.

I have seen the back of a negro dreadfully lacerated, merely for pilfering a glass of rum; while another, has been put to the excruciating torture inflicted by the thumb screw, for stealing a yam.—The piercing shrieks of this poor creature, a boy not quite fourteen, penetrated my very soul, and unable to behold the infernal punishment, I hurried away. As soon as the instrument is placed on the thumbs: (it is made of steel, much resembling a

excessive is the pain, that the hapless sufferers, to obtain momentary relief, frequently confess crimes of which they are innocent. This torture is chiefly resorted to for the purpose of extorting confession, and sometimes tears off the nails, and bursts the thumbs themselves. Is it possible, thought I, that the heart of man can be thus hardened—thus inaccessible to the voice of distress—and to those very beings, from whose labour, his riches, and consequently his ill-indulged power, springs.

While indulging sad reflection, my feelings were powerfully awakened by a negro, whose interesting appearance attracted my notice; his shining ebony skin, his regular white teeth, his softened features, but above all, his dejected looks recommend him to my favour. As he approached, I observed he held his neck quite erect; this was occasioned by the confinement of a triangle, which, he informed me, as the tears coursed down his cheeks, had prevented him from sleeping with comfort, for three months. The triangle, or pot hook, is made of iron, having three long barbed spikes like small grapplings, projecting from an iron collar. This mode of punishment is frequently inflicted on run-away negroes. Of this class was the poor sufferer. But indeed, it is impossible to enumerate all the sufferings of these children of misfortune; they are various as the disposition, or the minds of their owners.

To the painful feelings that must result from such scenes of cruelty, may I never more witness; let the sophistry of the slave dealer varnish it as he pleases: to them will I resign the subject, while I present the reader with the many natural productions of this, and the neighbour-islands: and as cotton is now the principal wear of the Europeans, I will begin with a description of the tree that produces it.

The cotton tree is nearly six or eight feet high, and bears before it is a year old. It produces two crops annually, each of about twenty ounces in weight; the leaves are similar to those of the vine—of a bright green, and the fibres of a cinnamon colour. The cotton balls, some of which are about the size of a small hen's egg, and divided in three parts, grow on a large stalk in a triangular pod, which is first produced by a yellow flower; and when ripe, opens of itself, disclosing the globular contents, as white as flakes of snow; in the middle of

these are small black seeds, formed not unlike those that are found in grapes.

The raw material, is spun in the West-Indies, by a rock and spindle, exceeding fine; and it is knit into stockings by the negro girls.

The cocoa-nut tree grows in a tall jointed trunk, sometimes from sixty to above eighty feet high, and is thick in proportion; but seldom perpendicularly straight. The bark is of grey colour, the wood is hard without, but pithy within, like the elder in England; its branches are divided with pinnated leaves on both sides. The cocoa-tree bears a cabbage at its summit, but is too valuable to be cut down for the sake of it: the tree produces nuts when six or eight years old, after which period, it is never seen without them; they grow generally seven or eight on one stalk, which diverges from the heart of the tree; they are as large as a man's head, but more conical. The nut when stripped of its husk, is uncommonly hard, and requires a hammer to break it, or to be sawed through the middle, to procure the nourishment it affords; when young, this consists of a white liquid, which can be compared to nothing better than milk and water, mixed with sugar; this cool and pleasant beverage, is considered excellent by the natives; but, at a riper period, instead of the liquid, a crisp kernal adheres close to the inside of the shell, for about half an inch thick, while it remains perfectly hollow within: this kernal has an exquisite flavour, and tastes like the liquid. The shells are used by the negroes for scouring, being considered a substitute for a brush; silk grass is likewise used for that and similar purposes—such as saucepans, and indeed, all kinds of culinary utensils.

The yam flourishes is a rich soil, it grows sometimes to the weight of one or two score pounds; and acre will produce a great quantity; its taste is very excellent, either boiled or roasted, and remarkably wholesome. The inside is of a whitish colour, without it is of a deep purple, approaching towards black: its shape is quite irregular: the yams are cultivated by cutting them in bits like potatoes—they are planted some feet distant from each other, and in about six or eight months arrive at maturity: they are fit for use when the leaves begin to lose their verdure, till then, they are of a deep green colour, and creep along the ground like ivy, with ligneous shoots. The yam is

slaves throughout the West Indies, and is alone sufficient to supply the want of bread, being capable of preservation for almost a year.

Maize, or Indian corn, grows on high perpendicular stalks, with long pale green leaves; the grain is of a shining glassy yellow colour, as large as marrow peas, and closely set together, with round ears, that are the size of the largest European carrot. This grain is used for poultry and cattle, of every species, and is likewise ground into meal—of which the creoles make excellent puddings and cakes; with this, they sometimes eat the young pods of the ocro, or altha plant, which grows upon a very small shrub, with oblong leaves; and which, when boiled are of a slimy texture; which ropy or glutinous quality, makes a rich sauce, when properly seasoned with Cayenne pepper.

The plantain is rather a plant, than a tree, as the trunk has neither wood nor bark, but consists of a stamen enrapped by green vescular husks, and succeeding each other in the manner of an onion, and above ten inches in diameter. These husks rise alternately, about fourteen feet distance from the ground, and form not in branches, but in leaves, that spread like an umbrella—about twelve or fourteen in number, so as to cover the tallest person.—They are of a shining sea-green, till they fade and hang down in tatters, as their places are supplied by the young ones. From the centre of all this, there grows a strong stalk about three feet long, and bending downwards, by the weight of a purple spatha, something like a calf's heart; on this stalk, grows the fruit called plantains, in shape of cucumbers, and above a hundred in number, which is called a bunch. Each tree or plant, bears but one of these bunches at a time; when it is cut down, it is speedily supplied by the young shoots which spring from its bulbous root; and which in the space of ten months more, are ready to undergo the same operation: it requires a rich nourishing soil to make it prosper, without which, it never arrives at maturity. This fruit being divested of its tegument when green, has in the inside a pale yellow substance, and supplies the want of bread; when, either boiled or roasted, it has an agreeable taste and his very wholesome. When the shell becomes yellow, the inside is soft and then it may be eaten raw, having much the taste of a ripe pear; but, when arrived at that state of maturity, it is only used by way of desert.

Children throughout all the West Indies, usually sleep upon beds composed of the leaves of this tree, any other kind being considered too warm and oppressive: whereas, the plantain leaves are highly esteemed for their coolness.

Another species resembling this fruit, is the banana, which only differs from the plantain, in its fruit being less, and more oval. This species, is never eaten till it is yellow and quite ripe; the former is most useful in point of food, but this last, which has the flavour of musk, is esteemed by far the most delicate.

The cassava, or manioc, is a shrub which grows about three feet high, of a grey colour, and knotted. Of this shrub, there are two species, distinguished by the appellation of the sweet and the bitter cassava; of which the roots alone are fit for use: these are soft and farinaceous, and in colour, size, and shape, greatly resemble European parsnips. The sweet cassava, roasted in hot ashes like the great plantains, and eaten with butter, is an agreeable healthy food, tasting much like the chesnut; but, the bitter cassava, which, when raw, is the most fatal poison both to man and beast—is, when prepared by fire, not only a safe food but the most natural bread of the natives.

The avoga to pear, grows on a tree above forty feet high, not unlike a walnut-tree: the fruit, which is about the size and colour of a large pear, a pale green; the inside is yellow, and the kernel is enclosed in a soft rind, like a chesnut: the pulp is so nourishing and wholesome, that it is called the vegetable marrow, and is frequently eaten with pepper and salt; in flavour it excells the finest peach.

The tamarind-tree, which produces delicious fruit, is about the size of the apple-tree, very straight, and covered with a brownish coloured bark; the twigs are slender, arched and knotty, producing leaves, and a pod, when in perfection: the pulp is brown, which, preserved, is a delightful refreshment, and dissolved with water, makes a cool and agreeable drink, highly esteemed in all diseases, particularly in fevers.

The shaddock, is a fruit of the orange species, in size as large as the head of a child of eight or ten years old; the skin is extremely thick, of a bitterish taste, and a pale yellow or citron-colour. There are two species of shaddock, of which, the pulp of the one is white, and

that of the other a lovely pale red—which may be eaten safely in great quantities.

The marcusa, is a fruit of an oval form, of an orange or golden colour, the blossom resembling the passion flower; they are commonly larger, but seldom less than a hen's egg, and are broken open as one would break an egg. They are then found to inclose an ash-coloured succulent jelly, full of small seeds; this is sipped out of the shell, being sweet mixed with acid, of a delicious flavour, and so cool that it is like ice marmalade.

The cinnamon-tree, grows to the height of twenty or thirty feet; it puts out numberless side branches, with a dense foilage from the very bottom of the trunk, which furnishes an opportunity of obtaining plenty of layers, and which facilitates the propagation of the tree—as it does not perfect its seed in any quantity under six or seven years—when it becomes so abundantly loaded, that a single tree is almost sufficient for a colony. When planted for layers, it is of a quick growth, reaching in eight years, the height of fifteen or twenty feet. It is spreading, and furnished with numberless branches of a fit size for decoration; the seeds are long in coming up, small branches of about an inch in diameter, produce the best cinnamon, which is itself the limber or inner bark of the tree—and it requires some dexterity to separate the outer barks, which would vitiate the flavour.

The papaw and palmeto trees, are undoubtedly the most graceful of any. The palmeto royal, or mountain cabbage, so denominated, because the upper part of the trunk is sometimes eaten and allowed to resemble the European cabbage in taste; they grow in Jamaica, upwards a hundred feet in height. The upper part of the trunk, from whence the foilage arises, resembles a well turned highly polished pillar, of a lively green colour, gently swelling from its base, and lessening gradually to the top, where it opens into branches, waving like plumes of ostrich feathers.

The trunk of the cedar and mahogony tree, measures from eighty to ninety feet from the base to the limbs.

The ceiba or wild cotton-tree, simply rendered concave, has been known to produce a boat, capaple of containg one hundred persons.

The several species of grain cultivated in this island, are maize, or Indian corn, which usually produces two

crops in the year, and sometimes three. It may be planted at any time, when there is rain, according to the soil; it yields from fifteen to forty bushels the acre,—Guinea corn produces but one crop in the year; it is planted in the month of September, and gathered in January following, yielding from thirty to sixty bushels an acre;—but, rice grows in no great quantity.

The island abounds with different kinds of grass, both native and foreign, of excellent quality. Of the first, is made very good hay, but not in great abundance; this method of husbandry being used only in a few parts of the country, and it is the less necessary, as the inhabitants are accommodated with two different kinds of artificial grass, both highly valuable, and producing abundant food for cattle. The first is an aquatic plant, called Scot's grass, which grows spontaneously in most of the swamps and morasses, of the West Indies. It rises to five or six feet high, with long succulent joints, and is very quick vegetation. From a single acre of this plant, five horses may be maintained a whole year; allowing fifty-six pounds of grass a day to each. The other kind, called guinea grass, may be considered as next to the sugar cane, in point of importance; as most of the grazing and breeding farms or pens in the island, were originally created, and are still supported principally by means of this invaluable herbage: hence, the plenty of horned cattle, both for the butcher and the planter, is such—that few markets in Europe furnish beef at a cheaper rate, or of a finer quality, than those of Jamaica.

Mutton, is also both cheap and good: the sheep of this island, are from a breed, originally African. They have short hair instead of wool, and in general are party coloured, chiefly black and white; they are small, but very sweet meat.

The swine of the West Indies, are considerably smaller than those of Europe, and have short pointed ears; their flesh is much whiter and sweeter than the pork of Great Britain: that of the wild sort, of which there are vast quantities in the woods, is still better.

The several kinds of Kitchen garden produce—such as edible roots and pulse, which are known in Europe, thrive also in the mountains of this island.——The markets of Kingston and Spanish Town, are supplied with cabbages, lettuce, carrots, turnips, parsnips, artichokes, kidney-

beans, green peas, asparagus, and various sorts of European herbs. The three first, are superior in flavour, to the same kinds produced in England. Several of the native growths, particularly the chocho, ochra, Lima bean, and Indian cale, are more agreeable than any of the esculent vegetables of Europe: the other indigenous productions of this class, are plaintains, bannanas, yams of several sorts, calalue, (a species of spinnage) eddoes, cassavi- and sweet potatoes. For bread, an unripe roasted plantain is an exceeding good substitute, and universally prefered to it by the negroes and most of the native whites.

Of the more elegant fruits, the variety is equalled only by their excellence; the annana, or pine-apple, tamarind, papaw, guava, sweet sop of two species, cashew-apple, custard apple, a species of chirimoya, cocoa-nut, star apple, granadilla, avocado-pear, hog-plum and its varieties: pindal-nut, negro-nut, Nesberry mammee, Spanish gooseberry, sapota, pickly pear, Seville and China oranges, lemon, lime, shaddock and its numerous species; vine, melon, fig and pomegranate, peaches and strawberries: the rose-apple and genip-mangoes, are almost as common as oranges.

The plains of Savannas, are regularly sown twice in the year with maize, or as it is called in Europe, Turkey wheat: it yields a good profit and does not require laborious cultivation.

In the West Indies, the serpents are wholly destitute of poison; there are numerous snakes and lizards—they have no animal of prey to devastate their fields—the crocodile, or aligater, is sometimes soon on the banks of their rivers, but here it is a cautious and timid creature, avoiding the approach of man;—the rest of the lizard kind are perfectly inoffensive, some of them are even fond of human society: they adorn the walks by their beauty, and claim attention by gentleness and frolic. The Flamingo is an elegant and stately bird, nearly as large as the swan, and arrayed in plumage of the brightest scarlet. The parrot and its affinities, from the maccaw to the parroquet, some of them not larger than a sparrow, are as numerous in the West Indies, as the rook is in England. The boast of the groves, is the colibry, or humming bird, the brilliance of whose plumage rivals all description; the green of the emerald, the rich pur-

ple of the amethyst, and the vivid flame of the ruby, all beautifully blended, and enveloped beneath a transparent veil of waving gold, are distinguishable in every species, but differently disposed and divided in each: nor is the diminutiveness of its form less the object of admiration, than the brightness of its plumage; the largest species not exceeding the size of the beetle, and appearing the link which connects the bird and insect creation.—The note of the mock bird is derservedly celebrated, while the hum of myriads of busy insects, and the soothing melody of the innumerable variety of doves, abounding in these climates, form a concert the most melodious.

Marine shells are found in great plenty on the mountains, in the interior parts of Jamaica—and, on one mountain, petrified oysters have been dug up, resembling the large oysters of the western coast of England. There are on the mangrove trees, that line the banks of rivers, oysters stuck full in the branches, like fruit, from the waters edge, up to high water mark; these oysters, attaching themselves to trees as others do to rocks, at some distance, look like mushrooms, but are indeed very trifling and small, for a hundred are hardly comparable to one dozen that come from Colchester; their taste is insipid.

There is a curious animal called the agouti, which constitutes an intermediate species between the rabbit and the rat: it is frequently discovered in the mountains of Jamaica. There is another animal called the peccary, which differs only from the European hog, in the singular, but well known circumstance of their having a musky discharge, from an opening or gland on the back, erroneously considered to be the naval—and the colour of their bristles being pale blue, tipt with white. The courage of this animal is far superior to the hog of Europe, and when hunted by dogs, will frequently turn and compel its enemy to retreat.

The armadillo, oppossum, and the racoon, are also found in plenty in the mountains, and are considered wholesome and even delicate food.

The cock roach, a pest of these Islands, is an insect of the beetle kind, far more destructive than the rat, from its faculty of insinuating itself through the smallest crevice; it is one inch, and sometimes two inches long, oval,

flat, and of a dark reddish colour: by getting through the locks of chests or boxes, it not only deposits its eggs there, but commits depredations on linen, cloth, silk, or any thing that comes in its way. By getting also into the victuals and drink, of every kind, it renders them extremely disagreeable—for it leaves the most disgusting smell, worse than that of a bug. They are seldom seen to fly, but creep very fast.—The most effectual way to keep the boxes free from them, is to place them on four empty wine bottles, cleaned from dust; which by their evenness, prevents the insects ascending, to get through the key holes, or even the smallest openings at the bottom.

The woods abound with two very extraordinary animals, both of which, are not only good to eat, but reckoned a delicacy; these are the guana and the mountain crab. The guana is a species of lizard, commonly about three feet long, and proportionally bulky; it lives mostly among fruit trees, and is perfectly inoffensive: it is deemed in flavour and wholesomeness equal to the finest green turtle. The mountain crabs live in a kind of regular society, in their retreats in the mountains, and methodically march once a year to the sea-side, in a body of some millions, as they multiply in great numbers. They chuse the month of April or May, to begin their expedition; the night is their chief time of proceeding; when they are frightened, they march back in a confused manner, holding up their nippers, which serve for their defence; for with them, they sometimes tear off a piece of skin, and leave the weapon where they inflict the wound. When, after a wearisome march, and escaping a thousand dangers, for they are sometimes two months in getting to the shore, they have reached their destined port, they prepare to cast their spawn. For this purpose, the crab has no sooner reached the shore, than it eagerly goes to the edge of the water, and lets the waves wash over its body two or three times, to wash off the spawn. The eggs are hatched under the sand, and soon after myriads at a time of new born crabs are seen quitting the shore, and slowly travelling up to the mountains: the old crabs having disburthened themselves, generally regain their habitations in the mountains, by the latter end of June.

In August, they begin to fatten and prepare for moult-

ing, filling up their burrows with dry grass, leaves and other materials: when the proper period arrives, each retires to its hole, shuts up the passage, and continues quite inactive until he gets rid of his old shell, and is fully provided with a new one. The shell is first observed to burst at the back and sides, to give a passage to the body: the animal then extracts its limbs from all the other parts, gradually afterwards. At this time, the flesh is in the highest perfection, and covered only with a tender membraneous skin, variegated with a multiplicity of reddish veins: but this hardens by degrees, and quickly becomes a perfect shell, like the former. Many people in order to eat of this rare animal in the richest state, cause them to be dug out of the earth in their moulting condition—but they are usually taken from the time they begin to move of themselves, till they reach the sea.

The island produces a most remarkable fish, with which, the people of Jamaica go a fishing; it is called the remora, or sucking fish, and which is not above twenty inches long, is kept for the purpose, and regularly fed. The moment the creature sees a fish in the water, though at a vast distance, it starts away with the swiftness of an arrow, and soon fastens upon it; by this method, turtles have been caught of a bulk and weight, which no single man could support.

Their contrivance for catching wild fowl, is equally ingenious: in the ponds, to which these birds resort, they throw calabashes (a species of gourd) which float about the water, and which, when accustomed to them, the fowl approaches without fear.

Turtles are numerous in all these seas, and are divided into two species, the Calapee, or green turtle, and the carett; the former of these, sometimes weigh four hundred pounds, and have a flattish shell. The carett, is inferior in size and quality; its shell is more valuable, and of a more convex form. Both deposit their eggs, which are excellent food, in the sand, where they are hatched by the heat of the sun.

The island of Jamaica, is divided into three counties —which are named, Middlesex, Surry, and Cornwall:— The county of Middlesex, consists of eight parishes, one town, and thirteen villages. The town, is that of Spanish Town, the capital of the island: it is situated on the banks of the river Cobre, about six miles from the sea, and contains between [illegible]

and about five-thousand inhabitants, including free people of colour. It is the residence of the governor or commander in chief, who is accommodated with a superb palace: it is here, that the legislature is convened, and court of chancery and the supreme court of judicature are held.

The county of Surry, contains seven parishes, two towns, and eight villages. The towns, are Kingston and Port Royal, the former of which is situated on the North side of a beautiful harbour, and was founded in 1693, when repeated desolations by earthquake and fire, had driven the inhabitants from Port Royal. It contained in 1788, 1665 houses, besides negro huts and warehouses; the number of white inhabitants in the same year, 1539; of free people of colour, 3280; of slaves, 16,665; total number of inhabitants, of all complexions and conditions, 26,478: it is a place of great trade and opulence. Many of the houses in the upper part of the town are extremely elegant, and the markets for butcher's meat, and turtle, fish, poultry, fruits, and vegetables, are equal to any in Europe. This town is also as healthy as Port Royal, once a place of the greatest wealth and importance in the West Indies; it is now reduced by repeated calamities, to three streets, a few lanes, and about two hundred houses: it contains, however, the royal navy yard, for heaving down and refiting the King's ships, the navy-hospital, and barracks for a regiment of soldiers. The fortifications are kept in good order.

The county of cornwall, contains five parishes, three towns, and six villages. The towns, are Savanna-la-Mar, on the South-side of the island: Montego Bay and Falmouth, on the North; the former was destroyed by a fatal hurricane and inundation of the sea, in 1780: it is now partially rebuilt, and contains from sixty to seventy houses.

Montego Bay, is a flourishing and wealthy town, consisting of two hundred and twenty-five houses, thirty-three of which, are capital stores, or warehouses. The number of top sail vessels, which clear annually at this port, are about one hundred and fifty; of which, seventy are capital ships. This account, includes part of those which enter at Kingston.

Falmouth, or (as it is commonly called) the point, is situated on the south side of Martha Brae harbour; in-

Rock, is composed of two hundred and twenty houses: the rapid increase of this town and neighbourhood, within the last last sixteen years in surprising.

In 1771, the three villages of Martha Brae, Falmouth, and the rock, contained together about eighteen houses, and the vessels which entered annually at the port of Falmouth, did not exceed ten, at present it can boast of upwards of thirty capital stationed ships, which loads for Great Britain, exclusive of sloops and smaller craft.

Each parish, (or precint) consisting of an union of two or more parishes, is governed by a chief magistrate, styled custus rotolorum, and a body of justices, unlimited by law as to number, by whom sessions of the peace are held every three months, and courts of common pleas, to try actions arising within the parish or precint, to any amount not exceeding twenty pounds. In matters of debt not exceeding forty shillings, a single justice is authorised to determine.——The whole twenty parishes, contain twenty-one churches and chapels; each is provided with a rector, and other church-officers. The rectors livings, the presentation to which rests with the governor or commander in chief, are from one to three hundred pounds per annum.—And each parish, builds and repairs a parsonage house, or allows the rector fifty pounds per annum, in lieu of one: besides which, many of the livings have glebe lands of very considerable value annexed to them, as the parish of St. Andrew—which altogether is valued at one thousand pound, sterling, per annum.

In the year 1788, the assembly passed a law to prohibit the burial of the dead within the walls of the churches, and as by this regulation, several of the rectors were deprived of a perquisite. An Augmentation of fifty pounds per annum, was made to most of the livings.

The vestries are composed of the custos and two other magistrates—the rector and ten vestry men; the latter are elected annually by the freeholders, besides their power of assessing and appropriating taxes. They appoint wardens, and allot labourers, for the repair of the public highways; they likewise nominate constables, for collecting both public and perochial taxes.

The supreme court of judicature for the whole island, (commonly called the grand court, as possessing similar jurisdiction in this country, to that of the several courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas and Exchequer

Britain,) is held in the town of St. Jago-de-la-Vega, or Spanish town, the capital of the county of Middlesex, on the last Tuesday of each of the months of February, May, August, and November, in every year. In this court, the chief justice of the island presides, whose salary is only 120l. but the perquisites arising from the office, make it worth nearly 8000l. per annum. The assistant judges, are gentlemen of the island, commonly planters, who neither receive salary nor reward of any kind for their attendance. Three judges must be present to constitute a court; each term is limited in duration to three weeks. From this court, if the matter in dispute in a civil action, be for a sum of 300l. sterling or upwards, an appeal lies to the governor and council, as a court of error.——If sentence of death be passed for felony, the appeal is to the governor alone. Assize courts also are held every three months, in Kingston, for the county of Surry, and in Savannah-la-Mar, for the county of Cornwall.

The number of white inhabitants, including troops and sea-faring men, are about thirty thousand; free negroes and people of colour, about five hundred in each parish; on an average of the whole, making ten thousand, exclusive of the black people called Maroons, who enjoy freedom by treaty. Of negroes, in a state of slavery in this island, about two hundred and fifty thousand.

There are about eight hundred sugar plantations, negroes employed thereon, are one hundred and forty thousand.—Coffee plantations, six or seven hundred; negroes employed thereon, twenty-one thousand—Grazing and breeding farms, (called pens,) one thousand and forty-seven; negroes employed thereon, thirty-one thousand.—Of small settlements, for the growth of cotton, ginger, pimento, corn, and other provisions, the number is not ascertained; they are supposed (including the negroes in the several towns) to give employment to fifty-eight thousand negroes. Total number of enslaved negroes in Jamaica, is about two hundred and fifty thousand.

BARBADOES, is situated in 13° 10` north latitude, and in longitude, 59° west from London: it is about twenty-one miles in length, and fourteen in breadth, and contains about ninety thousand acres of land, most of which is under cultivation.

The soil in the low lands is black, somewhat reddish; in the shallow parts on the hills, of a chalky marl, and

black mould is best suited for the cultivation of the cane, and with the aid of manure, has given as great returns of sugar in favourable seasons, as any in the West Indies; the prime lands of St. Kitt's, excepted.

The capital of this island was scarce risen from the ashes, to which it had been reduced by two dreadful fires, when it was torn from its foundation, and the whole country made a scene of devastation, by the storm of the 10th of October, 1780: in which no less than four thousand three hundred and twenty-six of the inhabitants (blacks and whites) miserably perished, and the damage to the country, was estimated at about a million and a half sterling.

Barbadoes is divided into five districts, and eleven parishes; it contains four towns—Bridge-town, Ostins or Charles-town, St. James's, (formerly called the hole,) and Speight's-town.—Bridge-town, the capital, before it was destroyed by the fires of 1766, consisted of about one thousand five hundred houses, which were mostly built of brick. It is still the seat of government, and may be called the chief residence of the governor, who is provided with a country villa, called Pilgrims, situated within a mile of it. His salary is two thousand pounds per annum, the whole of which is paid out of the Exchequer, and charged to the account of the four and a half per cent. duty.

The form of the government of this island, very nearly resembles that of Jamaica, except that the council is composed of twelve members, and the assembly of twenty-two. The most important difference respects the Court of Chancery—which in Barbadoes, is constituted of the governor sits in council; whereas in Jamaica, the governor is sole chancellor; on the other hand, in Barbadoes, the governor and council, even when the latter are acting in a legislative capacity.—This, in Jamaica, would be considered improper and unconstitutional. The courts of Grand Sessions, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, in Barbadoes, are distinct from each other, and not, as in Jamaica, united and blendid in one supreme Court of Judicature.

The number of white inhabitants, are now about sixteen or seventeen thousand; free people of colour, about eight hundred and fifty, and sixty thousand negroes.

The yearly exports, are about nine thousand five hundred hogsheads of sugar, of 15 cwt. each; five thousand

four hundred puncheons of rum, of one hundred gallons; and nearly sixty hogsheads of molasses; six thousand three hundred bags of ginger, eight thousand bags of cotton, three hundred and twenty gourds of aloes, besides some smaller articles, as sweetmeats, &c.—The produce of the West India islands, are so similar, that it is hardly necessary to describe each separately; but where any striking difference occurs, I consider myself called upon to notice it. I must not, therefore, omit remarking a species of cucumber, native of this island, called moon-shine, because it is ripened by the moon, and its colour resembles the rays of that glorious planet; its flavour is excellent, and rivals every other kind of cucumber.

The state of the negroes in this island, is greatly mitigated; for here the sun of benevolence has visited and warmed the hearts of its inhabitants. Pity, sweet impulse, as the gentle mediator, interferes, and writes a milder fate: the smiling look, the cheerful voice, delights the bosom of philanthropy, and as no sorrow claims its sympathy, it willingly participates in the joy of all. Slavery, robbed of half its miseries, here assumes the tempered aspect of servitude, and brings with its attendant toil, the promised reward.

In this island, the household negro, when he has performed the task allotted him, enjoys a pleasing cessation from labour; even the field negro, hails the hour of relaxation, applauds his own diligence, nor thinks of fatigue, when serving one whom he considers as a master, not as a tyrant. Use but clemency, ye sons of power, so shall your sugar have a sweeter flavour—your lovely groves exhale a scent more fragrant—the incense of grateful hearts! The fidelity and attachment of the slaves to their owner, in highly praise-worthy; they pride themselves on his wealth, feel interested in his prosperity, and pray for its continuance; they are very nimble, and use wonderful dispatch in domestic affairs.

Each child in the West Indies has two slaves given to him, a male and female, so that by the time he comes of age, they sometimes increase to six or seven. The little negroes follow their young master wherever he goes, like his shadow; at meal times, they stand behind his chair, after which, they retire to eat the bits left on his plate, which are more or less, according to the child's generosity. The negroes never eat in the presence of a white, who [redacted] himself offended by such freedom.

When a West Indian gentleman rides out on horseback, he is usually followed by a negro, who runs after him with surprising swiftness; unwearied, he pursues, nor stops till he helps his master to alight. The negroes are uncommonly hardy, and almost invulnerable to fatigue; they can with ease, support burdens that the strongest European would sink under. Though the spirits of the negroes are not easily depressed, a trifle can exhilirate them, and I have witnessed their consummate pleasure, when contemplating the white-washed sugar mills; not that I would thereby infer their gratification was produced by the mere sight, but rather the effect of a cause which raises them, in my opinion.

It is a custom in Barbadoes, when the estate owes nothing, to white-wash the sugar-mills, by way of proclaiming the situation of the owner: this is followed by the mirth and festivity of the slaves, who dance, shout, and are guilty of a thousand extravagancies. We will now take a survey of their less favoured bretheren — the field negroes, whose condition in this island is somewhat ameliorated: the smile unmeaning, is succeeded by the look of earnestness;—busy importance, which strongly marks the countenance, bespeaks the thoughts occupied; yet, if they watch the rising of that sun, which gilds their labour, they cheerfully wait its setting—for then arrives the hour of release. The time, which is then their own, they employ in hunting, fishing, cultivating their garden, or making baskets, and fish-nets for sale; with the money which these articles produce, they buy a hog or two, sometimes ducks or fowls, all of which are fattened upon the spontaneous growth of the soil, free from expence, and attended with very little trouble: these yield him good profit. Exempt from many of those cares which assail his owner, the field negro enjoys peaceful tranquility — the result of wishes soon appeased: he surveys the ample forest with pleasure, for it affords him materials to build his hut: this he fashions after his own taste, generally dividing it into two rooms; his pots he manufactures himself; his dishes are composed of gourds, the growth of his garden; his bed is plantain leaves:—to the weekly allowance given him by his master, is added a few luxuries,—such as his favourite hodge-podge of plantains and yams, boiled with salt meat, barbacued fish, and Cayenne pepper, or a pudding made with the flour of Indian corn, boiled with flesh, fowl, fish, Cayenne pepper, and the young pod[illegible]

the ocra plant: his only beverage, in general, is water, but this is not the effect of choice, for when they can get at it, the negroes are great drinkers; the only spirits they taste is a dram of new rum, of which, though so very pernicious, they are extremely fond. In their persons they are very clean, males and females usually bathing twice a day: to supply the place of a comb, they use clay, which being dried on the head, and washed off with soap and water, frees them from vermin. Another ingenious method they have for cleaning their teeth, about which they are peculiarly nice: they take a sprig of orange-tree, and bite it at one end till it resembles a tooth-brush, for which it is an excellent substitute, rendering the teeth as white as ivory; no negroe is to be seen without this little appendage, which likewise sweetens the breath, perhaps from the scent of the orange-tree, the odour of which it never loses.

The island of **GRENADA**, is computed to be about twenty-four miles in length, and twelve miles in its greatest breadth, containing nearly eighty thousand acres of land; yet, the quantity actually cultivated, has never exceeded sixty thousand acres. The face of the country is mountainous, but not inaccessible in any part: it abounds with springs and rivulets. To the north and to the east, the soil is a brick mould, the same or similar to that of Jamaica. On the west side, it is a rich brick mould, on a substratum of yellow clay. To the south, the land in general is poor, and of a reddish hue,—the same extends over a considerable part of the interior country; on the whole, however, Grenada appears to be fertile in a high degree, and by the variety of its returns, seems adapted to every tropical production.

The exports from Grenada, and its dependencies, are generally fourteen million lbs. of muscovado, and about nine million lbs. of clayed sugar; eight million gallons of rum, one million lbs. of coffee, four hundred and fifty thousand lbs. of cocoa, ninety thousand pounds of cotton, about twenty-seven thousand lbs. of indigo, and some smaller articles; the whole of which, on a moderate computation, cannot be worth less, at the ports of shiping, than 500,000l. sterling; exclusive of freight, duties, insurance, and other charges. It deserves to be remarked, that the sugar was the produce of about one hundred plantations only, and that they are worked by eighteen thousand negroes, which is rather more than one hogshead of

sugar of sixteen cwt. from the labour of each negroe, old and young, employed in the cultivation of that commodity.

This island is divided into six parishes, St. George, St. David, St. Andrew, St. Patrick, St. Mark, and St. John. Caraicou, another small island, dependent on it, forms a seventh parish.

The parochial taxes provides stipends of three hundred and thirty pounds currency, and sixty pounds house-rent, per annum, for five clergymen, viz.:—one for the town and parish of St. George, three for the other five out-parishes of Grenada, and one for Caraicou; besides these stipends, there are other valuable glebe lands, which had been appropriated to the support of the Roman Catholic clergy, whilst that was the established religion of Grenada.

The capital of Grenada is called St. George: it is situated in a spacious bay, on the west or lee-side of the island, not far from the south end, and possesses one of the safest and most extensive harbours for shiping, in the English West Indies.

The town of St. George is built principally of brick; it is divided by a ridge, which running into the sea, forms on one side the carenage, on the other the bay; thus, there is the Bay-town, which boasts a handsome square and market-place, and the Carenage-town, wherein the principal merchants reside. The ships lying land-locked, and in deep water, close to the wharfs. On the ridge between the two towns, stands the church, and on the promontory above it, is a large old fort built of stone, and large enough to accommodate a whole regiment. The other towns in Grenada, are, correctly speaking, small villages or hamlets, which are generally situated at the bays, or shiping places in the several out-parishes.

The parish town of Caraicou, is called Hillsbourgh, Grenada has two ports of entry, with separate establishments, and distinct revenue officers, independent of each other, viz.: — one at St. George, the capital, and one at Grenville-bay, a town and harbour on the east, or windward side of the island. The former is made a free port.

The white inhabitants are about two thousand, of which not more than two-thirds are men able to bear arms; these are incorporated into five regiments, including a company of free blacks or mulattoes attached to each. There are likewise five hundred regular troops from Great Britain

which are supported on the British establishment; there are also in its garrison, three companies of the King's negroes which came from America, where they served in three capacities — as pioneers, artificers, and light dragoons. In Grenada, they form a company of each, and are commanded by a lieutenant of the regulars, having captain's rank. There are about twenty-three thousand nine hundred free people of colour.

The evidence of all coloured people, of free condition, is received in the courts of this island, on their producing proof of their freedom; and such free people are tried on criminal charges, in the same manner as the whites; they are also allowed to possess lands and tenements to any amount, provided they are native-born subjects, or capitulans, and not aliens.

The governor, by virtue of his office, is chancellor, ordinary, and vice-admiral; he presides solely in the courts of Chancery or Ordinary, as in Jamaica; his salary is three thousand two hundred currency, per annum. The currency of Grenada, or rate of exchange, is commonly sixty-five per cent. worse than sterling; this salary is raised by a poll-tax on all slaves. The council of Grenada, consists of twelve members, and the assembly of twenty-six; the powers, privileges and functions, of both these branches of the legislature, are the same, and exercised precisely in the same manner as those of the council and assembly in Jamaica.

A freehold or life estate, of fifty acres, is a qualification for a representative for a parish; and a freehold, or life estate, in fifty pounds house-rent in St. George's, qualifies a representative for the town. An estate of ten acres, in fee or for life, or a rent of ten pounds, in any of the out-towns, gives a vote for the representative of each parish respectively; and a rent of twenty pounds per annum, issuing out of any freehold, or life estate, in the town of St. George, gives a vote for a representative for the town.

The law courts in Grenada, are only held twice a year; and in the case of its slave laws it may be said with truth and justice, that the assembly of this island, have manifested a liberality of sentiment, which reflects the highest honour on their characters, both as legislators and christians.

Such of the Grenadines as are dependent on the Grenada government, are Cariacou, and Isle Ronde; the former

contains six thousand nine hundred and thirteen acres of land; in general, it is fertile and well cultivated—producing in seasonable years, a million lbs. of cotton for exportation, besides corn, yams, potatoes and plantains, sufficient for the maintenance of its negroes. The cultivation of sugar has been found less successful in this island than cotton.

Isle RONDE, contains about five hundred acres of excellent land, which are wholly applied to pasturage and the cultivation of cotton. It is situated about midway between Caraicou and the north end of Grenada, about four leagues from each.

St. VINCENT's, contains about twenty-four thousand acres, which are every where well watered—but the country is generally very mountainous and uneven. The intermediate vallies, however, are fertile in a high degree; the soil, consisting chiefly of a fine mould, composed of sand and clay, well adapted for sugar.

The island is divided into five parishes, of which, only one was provided with a church—and that was blown down in the hurricane of 1780.

There is one town called Kingston, the capital of the island, and the seat of its government—and three villages that bear the names of towns, but they are small hamlets; consisting each of only a few houses; but the public establishment, that reflects the highest honour on St. Vincent's, is its celebrated botanic garden, under the care of Mr. Anderson; it consists of thirty acres, of which, no less than sixteen are in high cultivation; abounding not only with every species of the vegetable world, which the hand of nature has bestowed on these islands, for use and beauty, for food and luxury, but also with many exotics from the East Indies and South America.

In the form of its government and the administration of executive justice, St. Vincents differs in no respect to Grenada.——The governor's salary, exclusive of fees of office, is 2000l. sterling.

The military force, consists of a regiment of infantry, and a company of artillery, sent from England—and a black corps raised in the country, but provided for with the former, on the British establishment, and receiving no additional pay from the island. The militia consists of two regiments of foot, serving without pay of any kind.—The number of inhabitants, are about one thousand four hundred whites, and eleven thousand eight hundred negroes.

There are several islands dependant on the St. Vincent's government, viz.: Bequia, containing three thousand seven hundred acres: this little island is invaluable from the commodiousness of its fine harbour, called Admiralty-bay. Union, containing two thousand one hundred and fifty acres. Canouane, containing one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven acres; and Mustique, containing about one thousand two hundred and three acres. There are likewise, the little islets of Petit Martinique, Petit St. Vincent, Maillerau, and Balleseau, each of which produces a little cotton. The negroes employed in the cultivation of these islands, are one thousand four hundred.

The island of DOMINICA, contains one hundred and eighty-six thousand four hundred and thirty-six acres of land, and is divided into ten parishes. The town of Roseau, is the capital of the island, and is situated in the parish of St. George, being about seven leagues from Prince Rupert's-bay; it is on a point of land on the S. W. side of the island, which forms two bays, viz.: Woodbridge's-bay to north, and Charlotteville-bay to the southward. Roseau, is about half a mile in length from Charlotteville to Roseau river, and mostly two furlongs in breadth, but less in some parts, being of a very irregular figure. It contains five hundred houses, exclusive of the cottages occupied by negroes. This island is twenty-nine miles in length, and sixteen in breadth; it contains many high and rugged mountains, interspersed with fine vallies, and in general they are fertile. Several of the mountains contains unextinguished volcanoes, which frequently emit vast quantities of burning sulpher: from these mountains also, issue springs of hot water, some of which, are said to possess great virtue in the cure of tropical disorders: in some places, the water is hot enough to coagulate an egg.

In the woods of Dominica, are innumerable swarms of bees, which lodge in the trees, and produce large quantities of wax and honey, both of which are equal in goodness to any in Europe. It is precisely the same species of bee as in Europe, and must have been transported thither; the native bee of the West Indies being a smaller species, unprovided with stings, and very different in its manners from the European.

Dominica is well watered, there being upwards of thirty fine rivers in the island, besides a great number of rivulets: the soil in most of the interior country, is a light

brown coloured mould, and appears to have been washed from the mountains towards the sea coast; and, in many of the vallies, it is a deep black and rich native earth, seemingly well adapted to the cultivation of all the articles of West Indian produce; the under stratum, is in some parts a yellow or brick clay, in others a stiff terrace; but the land is, in most places, very stony.

There are fifty plantations, which produce annually, no more than three thousand hogsheads of sugar; coffee answers much better. There are two hundred coffee plantations in Dominica, which, in favourable years, produce three million of pounds weight; a small part of the lands are also applied to the cultivation of cocoa, indigo, and ginger. The number of white inhabitants of all descriptions, are about one thousand two hundred;—of free negroes, four hundred;—and of slaves, about fourteen thousand. The governor's salary is 1300l. sterling.

The most curious production of this island, is the Vegetable Fly; it is of the appearance and size of a small cockchafer, and buries itself in the ground, where it dies, and from its body, springs up a small plant which resembles a young coffee-tree, only that its leaves are smaller; the plant is often overlooked, from the supposition people have of its being no other than a coffee-plant; but on examining it properly, the difference is easily discovered; the head, feet, and body of the insect, appearing at the foot, as perfect as when alive.

The buildings on a coffee estate, are: first, the dwelling-house, which is generally situated on the banks of a river; thus blending pleasure with convenience, for close to it are the out-houses for the overseer and book-keeper, with store-houses and small offices: the other necessary buildings are, a carpenter's lodge, a dock and boat-house, and two large coffee-lodges, the one to bruise and divide the pulp from the berries, the other to dry them;—the rest consists of negro-houses, a stable, hospital, and warehouses, which appear like a small village: the coffee-lodge alone, has been known to cost 6000l. sterling. The whole building is encompassed by a wide canal, which by flood gates, lets in water fresh from the river; besides a draw-bridge, which during the night cuts off all communication from without.

The planting-ground is separated into two large square pieces, having usually in each, two thousand beautiful coffee-trees, growing at nine or ten feet distance from each

other; these trees bear when about three years old, they are considered in their prime at six, and continue producing fruit till thirty: the way of supplying them being from good nurseries, which no coffee estate is ever without.—The coffee-tree is not often permitted to grow higher than a man can reach, in order to render easy the gathering of it. The bark of this tree is of a light brown, and the leaves like laurel, are adorned with a beautiful polish—with these it is closely covered, the branches bending near the surface of the earth to the summit; the berries are oval, and though green at first, gradually change their hue until ripe, then they become a bright crimson, like a cherry-tree. In each of these berries, are deposited two kernels like beans, lying flat upon each other. A good tree usually produces three or four pounds weight at each crop; the coffee-tree yields two crops every year, one at Midsummer and the other about Christmas. At the times of harvest, it is a pleasing sight to see the negroes picking the crimson berries among the glossy green, where the old and the young are busily employed. The berries are placed in baskets, and carried into the bruising-lodge, where they are bruised in a mill for that purpose in the above lodge, to divide the kernels from the husks; they are next, steeped in water one night to cleanse them, and then spread on the drying-floor, which is exposed to the open air, and is built of flat stones; after which, they are spread on garrets made for the purpose, to let them evaporate and dry internally; during which time, they must be turned over every day with wooden shovels; after this, they are once more dried in large coolers or drawers, that run on rollers in and out of the windows, to prevent them from being overtaken by showers of rain; they are then placed in wooden mortars, and beaten by candle-light with heavy wooden pestles, to strip them of a thin skin that joins the two kernels in the pulp: they are next separated from the husks through a bunt mill, and once more thoroughly dried on the coolers, and the whole beans selected from the bruised,—then put into casks or barrels of nearly three or four hundred weight each, for exportation.

As I have already said, some part of the land is applied to the cultivation of cocoa, indigo, and ginger, a short account of each may not be considered uninteresting:

The Cocoa, or Chocolate-Tree, is supplied from nurseries (like orchards in Europe), and are planted generally at eleven or twelve feet distance from each other, where they

grow to the height of European cherry-trees. These plantations require security from the boisterous wind and schorching sun, particularly when young, the roots not entering sufficiently deep into the earth to nourish them,—nor can they at that period bear extraordinary heat, upon which account, the groves are filled up with cassava shrubs to shade them; besides which, they serve to destroy the weeds. The trees produce fruit before they are three years old, yielding two crops annually; they are considered in the highest perfection at the age of thirteen or fourteen. The leaf of the cocoa-tree is about nine inches in length, and nearly three in breadth,—thick, pointed, ribbed like a laurel-thyme, and of a shining green hue—the fruit is about the same size. While young it resembles a cucumber, but when ripe becomes yellow like a lemon, with ribs like the melon, and tubercles which contain the seed or nuts, sometimes thirty in number: they lie longitudinally in the fruit, and when fit for use, are of the size of olives, and purple coloured. The trees are allowed to produce at each crop, from forty to three hundred pods, each containing thirty nuts, weighing one pound; after a few days, the nuts are separated from the pods and dried in the shade, after which, they are put into barrels ready for exportation.

The indigo plant is a knotty shrub, produced from seed, it grows about two feet from the ground, arriving at perfection in two months. This plant requires a very luxuriant soil, which ought to be kept free from weeds; the seed is enclosed in small brown pods, the leaf grows in pairs, and is darker above than below; but at the end of each shoot is this shrub, one leaf grows single, the young shoot issues from the base. When all the green is cut off, the entire crop is tied in clusters, and placed in a tub filled with water, covered over with heavy logs of wood, by way of pressers: thus kept, it begins to work; in less than sixteen hours the water appears to boil, and becomes of a violet or garter-blue colour, extracting all the grain or colouring matter from the plant. In this situation, the liquor is drawn off into another tub which is rather less, when the remaining trash is picked up and cast away:—the scent of this refuse, is so very pernicious, that it is considered to occasion that sickness incidental to this business: being placed in the second tub, the mash is shaken by paddles suited to the purpose, till, by a dexterous maceration, all the grain separates from the water; the for-

mer, settling like mud at the bottom, while the latter appears clear and transparent on the surface. This water being cautiously removed, till near the coloured mass, the remaining liquor is drawn off into a third tub, to let what indigo it may contain settle at the bottom; after which, the last drops of water here being removed, the dregs or indigo is put into proper vessels to dry, where, freed from its remaining dampness, and formed into small round and oblong square pieces, it becomes a fine dark blue, fit for exportation.

Ginger is the root of a reedy stalk, that scarce ever exceeds two feet in height, with long slender pointed leaves. These roots are tuberous, small and crowded, in various shapes like pig potatoes, and of a similar colour, but fibrous, sour, hot, and spicy; the smell is odoriferous in the extreme; it is also delicious when preserved, and in many cases esteemed a valuable medicine. Ginger drink, so called by the West Indians, is considered a beverage at once cooling, delightful and wholesome; thus, is this inestimable root, held high in repute by the natives, and sometimes made into tea; besides, being used as a spice for seasoning.

The island of St. CHRISTOPHER, lies in 17° 15′ north latitude, and 63° 17′ west longitude. It is about fourteen leagues in circuit, and contains forty-three thousand seven hundred and twenty-six acres of land, of which, about seventeen thousand acres are appropriated to the growth of sugar, and fourteen thousand to pasturage. As sugar is the only commodity of any importance that is raised, except provision and a little cotton, it is probable that nearly one half of the whole island is unfit for cultivation;—the interior part of the country consists, indeed, of many rugged precipices and barren mountains: of these, the loftiest is Mount Misery (evidently a decayed volcano) which rises three thousand seven hundred and eleven feet in perpendicular height from the sea. There is an immense crater on the top of the mountain, the bottom of which is nearly level, and supposed to contain fifty acres, of which, seven are covered with water, the rest are clothed with high grass and trees, among which, the mountain-cabbage is most conspicuous. From the crannies or fissures of this crater, still flow streams of hot water, which are strongly impregnated with sulphur, alum, and vitriolic acid. Nature, however, has made abundant amends for the sterility of the mountains, by the fertility she has

No part of the West Indies, possesses even the same soil that is found in St. Christopher's; it is in general a dark grey loam, so light and porous as to be penetrable by the slightest application of the hoe; it is supposed to be the production of subterraneous fires, the black ferruginous pumice of naturalists, finely incorporated with a pure loam; the under stratum is gravel, from eight to twelve inches deep. Clay is no where found except at a considerable height in the mountains. Canes planted in particular places, have been known to yield eight thousand lbs. of Muscovado sugar from a single acre.——This island is more favourable for the production of sugar than any other in the West Indies.

The woods on the mountainous parts of this island, harbour abundance of a small species of monkey, troops of which, frequently come down to devour the canes, and do great mischief. This island is divided into nine parishes, and contains four towns and hamlets, viz.: Bassetere, the capital, containing eight hundred houses; Sandy Point, Old Road, and Deep Day: of these, the two first are ports of entry, established by law. The fortifications consist of Charles Fort and Brimstone Hill, both near Sandy Point; three batteries at Bassetere, one at Fig-Tree Bay; another at Palmeto Point; and some small ones, of no great importance. The proportion which St. Christopher's contribute with the other islands, towards an honourable provision for the governor general, is one thousand currency, per annum, which is settled on him by the assembly, immediately on his arrival; he has besides, some other perquisites, and in time of war they are considerable.

Each island within this government, has a separate council, and each of them an assembly or house of representatives. In St. Christopher's, the council consists of ten members, but it is seldom that more than seven are present. The House of Assembly is composed of twenty-four representatives, of whom, fifteen make a quorum: the requisite qualification, is a freehold of forty acres of land, or a house worth forty pounds a year. Of the electors the qualification is a freehold of ten pounds per annum.—The governor of this, and the other islands in the same government, is chancellor by his office, and in St. Christopher, sits alone. Attempts have been made to join some of the council with him, as in Barbadoes, but without success—the inhabitants chusing rather to sub-

mit to the expence and delay of following the chancellor to Antigua, than suffer the inconveniency of having on the chancery benches, judges—some of whom, it is probable, from their situation and connections, may be interested in the event of every suit that happens to come before him.

The office of chief judge is worth 600l. per annum. The emoluments of the assistant judges, are trifling. The number of white inhabitants are four thousand, and taxes are levied on twenty-six thousand negroes. There are about three hundred blacks and mulattoes of free condition.

In this happy island, as in Barbadoes, the mild breath of philanthropy whispers consolation, and softens burthens it cannot wholly remove. The negroe, unacquainted with artificial wants, looks up to his master for the necessaries of life,—and if he finds bitter mingled with the sweet, he is led to acknowledge that life itself is composed of these opposites — he calls not that power unjustly bestowed which is rightly used,—neither is envy excited at the prosperity he shares;—gratitude prompts willing obedience, and smooths the rugged brow of labour:—the faithful slave, proud of his strength, exerts himself to pay the debt he owes—thanks kind Providence for the gift,—and cheerful, smiles at fatigue.

NEVIS: This romantic little spot is nothing more than a single mountain, rising like a cone, in an easy ascent from the sea – the circumference of its base not exceeding eight English leagues. That the island was produced by some volcanic explosion, there can be no doubt, for there is a hollow or crater near the summit, which contains a hot spring, strongly impregnated with sulphur,—and sulphur is frequently found in substance in the neighbouring gullies and cavities of the earth.

The country is well watered, and the land, in general, fertile; a small proportion towards the summit of the island excepted, which answers, however, for the growth of ground provisions — such as yams, and other esculent vegetables. The soil is strong; the best is a loose black mould, or a clay in some places: the upper stratum is a stiff clay which requires labour, but properly divided and pulverised, repays the labour bestowed on it. The general produce of sugar (its only staple production), is one hogshead of sixteen cwt. per acre, from all the canes that are annually cut, which being, about four thousand

acres; the return of the whole, is an equal number of hogsheads.

This island, small as it is, is divided into five parishes: it contains a town called Charles Town, the seat of government, and a port of entry. There are two other shipping places, called Indian Castle and New Castle. The principal fortification is at Charles Town, and is called Charles Fort:—the commandant is appointed by the crown, but receives a salary from the island.—The government, in the absence of the governor-general, is administered by the president of the council:—this board is composed of the president and six other members. The House of Assembly, consists of fifteen representatives, three for each parish. The administration of common law, is under the guidance of a chief justice, and two assistant judges: there is an office for the registry of deeds. The number of white inhabitants is six hundred, while that of the negroes is ten thousand.

ANTIGUA, is situated about twenty leagues to the eastward of St. Christopher's; the land is very fertile, but there is not a single spring, or rivulet of fresh water in the island; they have, therefore, contrived cisterns that hold rain water, which is astonishingly light, pure, and wholesome. Antigua, is upwards of fifty miles in circumference, and contains fifty-nine thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight acres of land; of which, about three thousand four hundred, are appropriated to the growth of sugar and pasturage. Annexed to its other principal staples, are cotton, wool, and tobacco. This island contains two two different kinds of soil:—the first a black mould on a substratum of clay which is naturally rich, and when not checked by excessive droughts—to which, Antigua is patricularly subject,—very productive: the other is a stiff clay on a substratum of marl, it is much less fertile than the former, and abounds with an irradicable kind of grass, in such a manner, that many estates consisting of that kind of soil, which were once very profitable, are now so impoverished and overgrown with this sort of grass, as either to be converted into pasture land, or to become entirely abandoned—exclusive of such deserted land, and a small part of the country that is unimproveable, every part of the island may be said to be under cultivation.

In the year 1789, there was no fall of rain for seven months, whereby, there was not only no crop of sugar, but five thousand head of horned cattle perished for

want of water. The white inhabitants of all ages and sexes, are two thousand five hundred and ninety; negroes, thirty-seven thousand eight hundred.

Antigua, is divided into six parishes and eleven districts, and contains six towns and villages.—St. John's:—this town, which is the capital, was nearly destroyed by fire, on the 17th of August, 1769, upwards of two hundred and sixty houses were consumed, besides wharfs, cranes, &c. Parham, Falmouth, Willoughby, Bay, Old Road, and James Fort; of which, the two first are legal ports of entry.

No island in this part of the West Indies, can boast of so many excellent harbours; of these, the principal are English harbours and St. John's, both well fortified,—and, at the former, the British government has established a Royal Navy Yard and Arsenal, and conveniences for careering ships of war.

The military establishment, consists of two regiments of infantry, and two of foot militia; there are likewise, a squadron of dragoons and a battalion of infantry, both raised in the island; and the regulars receive additional pay, as in Jamaica.

The legislature of Antigua, is compossd of the Commander-in-Chief, a Council consisting of twelve members, and an Assembly of twenty-five.

MONSERRAT, is about three leagues in length, and as many in breadth; it is supposed to contain about thirty thousand acres of land, of which, almost two thirds are very mountainous and barren. The land in cultivation, is appropriated nearly as follows:—In sugar, sixteen thousand acres; in cotton, provision, and pasturage, two thousand acres each. None other of the tropical staples are raised; its average crops are about two thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven hogsheads of sugar, of sixteen cwt. one thousand one hundred puncheons of rum, and two hundred and seventy bales of cotton; they are produced by the labour of one thousand three hundred whites, and ten thousand negroes. The government is administered in this, as in the other islands, by a legislature of its own, under the Captain-general: the Council consists of six members, and the Assembly of eight, two from each of the four districts, into which it is divided; and the proportion which Monserrat contributes to to the salary of the Captain-general, is 400l. per annum.

Peculiar to this island is a jessamine, which grows on

fragrant in scent: the leaves are thick, glossy, and filled with a milky juice; besides this beautiful flower, there are many others equally worthy of notice; but a minute description of them, would exceed the limits of these pages.

I will, therefore, turn from inanimate, to the animated creation, and once more speak of the negroes, whose condition in this island, is sad indeed!—Their tasks with some masters, are never performed, as they must labour on day and night; thus, after digging a trench of five hundred feet, by four o'clock in the afternoon, which the negroe supposed to be the whole of his task, he is told, if he could dig five hundred feet by four o'clock, he could certainly finish seven hundred by sun set; and, this he is compelled to perform, though with all the bitter anguish of disappointment, for his haste was inspired by the recollection of his beloved family, and the desire of cultivating his little garden to support them. If he dares to reflect for a moment and slight his work, he immediately is recalled by the application of the whip, cow-skin, or bamboo. Ill used, his grief insulted and mocked, the unhappy slave, though susceptible of every passion, is not allowed to give them vent;—considered as a mere machine, which when set in motion, performs the purpose it is meant for:—toil and misery is his inheritance; he experiences no alleviation—knows no change—in vain he looks for a ray of comfort, to cheer the devious path he is doomed to tread.

The women too, on most of the plantations, are compelled to perform the same labour with the hoe and mattock as the men, even though pregnant or suckling their infants, which they usually do for two years; these poor little neglected beings, are left under the care of an old negroe woman, who, when they can be no longer appeased, bring them to their mothers in the fields. No sooner is the tear of infant grief chased away, and the smiling babe clings delighted to the throbbing bosom of its anxious mother, than it is roughly torn away: she durst not attempt to prevent the act, or scarcely to cast a look after her darling.

Shame on those beings, whom refinement has taught so well to define the active passions of the soul—to trace the tender chord where dwells social affection, and make that chord vibrate to misery!—And have they discovered soft compassion in the rugged bosom of a negroe?—Yes, they

and the owner of a plantation, insatiate for gain, always sends a man and woman to work together, by which contrivance, the work of two men is generally performed; as the poor negroe will double his diligence, to lessen the sufferings of his unfortunate companions, who is, perhaps, his wife, mother, or sister, far advanced in pregnancy, a state that exempts them not from the severest hardships. From this want of attention to the condition of the female field negroes, and to the over exertions of the men for their relief, is attributed their early death; 'tis indeed, a melancholy truth, that these miserable creatures seldom enjoy a state of longevity; cruelty and unceasing toil, cuts short the thread of existence.

How striking the difference between the chequered life of the negroe and that of the planter; this son of indolence, too enervated to sleep sound (or perhaps from the frequent naps he takes during the day) rises about six o'clock in the morning, and saunters to the portico, where his coffee is ready prepared: six or seven fine young slaves, both male and female, are employed in attending him;—one hands his coffee, another replaces his spoon, while a third awaits the emptying of his cup:—this self-imagined monarch, is next visited by his prime minister, the overseer, who punctually attends him every morning: having made his obedience at a respectful distance, he immediately proceeds to business—reports what work was performed the day before, what negroes deserted, died, fell ill, recovered, were bought, or born: he becomes the unfeeling accuser of the unfortunate delinquents, who are usually present, and points out which of them neglected their work, feigned sickness, or was absent:—the negroe-driver is then ordered to perform his office; the castigation commences under the inspection of the overseer, who, as pique directs, forgets to count the lashes, which often exceeds the offence. For a trifling failure of duty, thirty-nine are considered sufficient; these are inflicted with long hempen whips, that cut round at every lash;—when the crime claims greater punishment, the number of lashes are increased to one hundred, or as many more as caprice directs. The culprit, either man or woman, is tied to a tree, or held down by four men, each holding an arm or leg; during this severe infliction, the planter looks on with calm indifference, as if deaf to the piercing shrieks which almost rends the air.——[See the Frontispiece.]

listens to the report of the diressy negroe.

(a black surgeon) who is employed to attend the sick slaves. This unwelcome messenger, is generally dismissed with execrations for the intelligence he brings. The planter then, as if for consolation, saunters about his estate, or on horseback views his stores; the contemplation of his riches, is the only enjoyment he can taste, for as flattery is sweet to the weak mind, so is power to the ambitious: can then the planter disregard the source from whence his power flows?—This pampered mortal, in all the paraphernalia of assumed consequence, walks forward in his morning dress, which consists of a loose flowing night-gown of the finest India chintz: on his head he wears a cotton night cap, of the choicest texture, and over that, a large beaver hat, which securely defends him from the sun:—his trowsers are of fine holland,—his shirt, the neck of which is open to admit the air, is equally costly; nor are his white silk stockings, and red morocco slippers, objects of less consideration with him: he would not be seen without those appendages.

From this stroll he returns about eight, and partakes of breakfast, provoking an appetite by the aid of ham, bacon, hung-beef, fowls or pigeons, broiled plantains, and sweet cassavas roasted; bread, butter, and cheese, with which he drinks a glass of Madeira, Rhenish, or Morzell wine; while the obsequious overseer sits at the father end of the table, keeping at an awful distance: both are attended by the finest slaves that can be selected.

The repast ended, the planter oppressed with languor, gazes at vacancy, and when sufficiently awakened from his stupor, attempts to divert himself with a book—plays at chess or billiards, till the heat of the day reminds him of his meridian nap: he retires to his hammock, where he is fanned by two slaves;—his sleep is seldom profound, so, that if he intends going abroad, he gets up in time to dress for dinner:—his trowsers are exchanged for a pair of silk breeches, with which he wears a thin coat and waistcoat, both white, and a hat lined with green: disdaining to be attended by one valet, he generally employs three. A negroe boy puts on his shoes and stockings, which he likewise buckles, while another dresses his hair, and the third holds his clothes or fans him, during the fatigue of dressing, which is dispensed with if he dines at home; in that case, his nap is lengthened till summoned to dinner.

This meal generally consists of fish, flesh, fowl, veni-

son, vegetabtes, fruits, and the choicest wines; after which, a cup of strong coffee, and a liquor, finish the repast.

He is visited again at six o'clock by his overseer, accompanied the same as in the morning, by negroe-drivers and prisoners, when the flogging is renewed;—after which, the necessary orders being given for the next day's work, the whole party is dismissed, and the evening spent with cards, weak punch, and sangaree, which is composed of Madeira wine, nutmeg, sugar, and water. About eleven o'clock, the planter retires to rest, and is undressed by his slaves. In this cheerless round of insipidity, he passes his life, unmarked by one act of benevolence; cruelty and selfishness are his characteristics; and while he riots in luxury, he disregards the welfare of those beings, who so largely contribute towards it.

As the negroes love with enthusiasm, so do they hate with implacability: they are jealous, revengeful and cruel —never forget an act of kindness, nor ever forgive an injury; nothing but death can efface either from their memory. They are faithful friends, but terrible enemies; —terrible, because unawed by danger, unsubdued by pain, and unmoved by supplication: their fortitude is great— their perseverance unwearied, and their animosity unceasing:—gratitude is their characteristic; and a negroe, who has experienced good treatment from his master, will cheerfully loose his life in his service,—nay, consider it a trifling sacrifice. It is then, that deriving happiness from his state, he will urge it to banish reluctance; heroically exclaiming, "I am but a poor negroe, let me die for you!"

Though skilled in simples, and well versed in their respective properties, the negroes are subject to many diseases, among which, the most destructive is the leprosy:— this malady is considered incurable, and is so very infectious, that those afflicted with this complaint, are of necessity separated from society, and doomed to perpetual exile in some secluded corner of the plantation: and what is more lamentable, is, that though the disease is hopeless, the wretched sufferer lingers for years. — The tubboes, is a troublesome and tedious disorder, occasioning painful sores in the feet.—The lota, is a while scorbutic spot, that externally covers the body; — and the itch, which generally comes from poorness of diet, is very common with the negroes: as also, the yaws;—besides these

subject to every complaint common to the Europeans; notwithstanding which, they are cheerful and lively, so that their indisposition is not increased by any impression produced on the mind:—not to look beyond the present moment, seems their ruling principle; they are, therefore, spared the pang of anticipation, and give a loose to mirth, with that exuberance of spirit which denotes people unburthened by reflection.

Their chief diversion consists in dancing; the negroes dance always in couples, the men figuring and footing, while the women turn round like a top—their petticoats expanding like a hoop. During this amusement, the lookers on, youths and girls, are busily employed; the former, in handing about the new rum, and the latter, encouraging the performance.

They have a very pretty innocent pastime, called the awarce, which consists in pitching with a large kind of marble; for the want of which awarce, nuts or pebbles, are substituted. These ingenious people, have invented various musical instruments, such as the qua-qua, a hard sounding board, raised on one side like a boot-jack, on which they beat time as on a drum, with two pieces of iron or bones; the hollow reed is blown through the nostrils like the nasal flute of Otaheite; the ansokko-biana, which, like a dulcimer, give different sounds that are the most agreeable; the great creole-drum, is covered at one end with a sheep-skin, on which they set astride, beating time with the palms of their hands, producing the effect of the bass-viol to the qua-qua board; the great loango-drum, and the papa-drum, being covered at both ends, serves for the same purpose as the bass-drum.

Every Saturday evening, the slaves who are well treated, close the week with a dance; besides which, they have a grand ball, once a quarter. On this festive occasion, all the neighbouring negroes are invited, and make their appearance, drest in their best; the women wearing rich chintz petticoats, and the men, fine holland trowsers.

Though cruelty and punishments devised by inventive malice, frequently embitter the life of the negroe:—how different his treatment in the British colonies, to those of the Dutch settlements:—there, misery with unvaried face, shews the sad features of fixed despair; no transient smile relaxes the furrows of settled misery,—no mirthful sally, occasioned by forgetfulness, cheats the bosom of its grief—forlorn, it throbs, or heaves in unison, with the rending

sigh—the form debilitated, bespeaks the vigils of the night —the sudden start, the broken slumber, which denies renovation—all! all! is strikingly depicted on the care-worn countenance of the negroe; he wakes amid the clang of whips, chains, and instruments of torture! and, now his body feels the mighty pang, as some distended sinew cracks: his straining eyes, watch quick the vital stream, or mark the falling of a limb—the fluttering heart, the convulsed frame, the tremulous beating, witness nature's last farewell — she struggles—rallies, now revives—now droops, and finally yields.

But, in the interval of life and death, the slave, half free, begins to hail the approach of liberty — nor blame him, if in the hour of corporeal suffering, he curses his tormentors; he feels ambition's animating glow, and he who has meanly lived, aspires to nobly die; he scorns the weakness of complaint—lulled his pain, hushed his groans, no sign, save the involuntary writhe, betrays his agony—a more than fierceness illumes his eye, a look of defiance, the effect of desperation, renders his features ghastly; and, because he will not meanly sue for pity where none exists, he is called callous, hardened, and unfeeling. That there are dissolute negroes, as well as cruel masters, I must acknowledge, but in this region of despotism, the punishment too often exceeds the crime.

In these settlements, among other acts of cruelty, the following remain still fresh on my mind: —— A fine old negroe, beguiled by the temptation of some new rum, proved forgetful of the whip, and stole a bottle; for which, he was sentenced to receive two hundred lashes, from the lacerating whip of two negroe-drivers; and when recovered, was chained to the furnace which distills the rum, there to keep in the intense heat of a perpetual fire, night and day; being blistered and scorched all over, till he died.

Another poor creature was suspended alive, from a gallows, by the ribs; between which, with a knife, an opening was first made, and then fastened to an iron hook with a chain. In this shocking manner, he kept alive three days, hanging with his feet and head downwards, catching with his tongue, the drops of water (it being the rainy season) that were flowing down his anguished bosom.—The sight pierced my heart, and I could not refrain from shedding tears, which the poor sufferer observed, and, in a voice strongly marked by emotion, said, "thank you, massa;" then, ceased allaying the fever of his parched throat,

because I seemed affected. Exalted conduct! amiable fortitude! — and, could generosity in such a moment, influence him?—yes! it did, and overcame every selfish consideration. Why did he not call my tears mockery? Why did he not rail at the sons of refinement? — No! a lacerated, uncultivated negroe, knew how to prize the drop of sympathy, and stilled the voice of complaint.— Moved with compassion, the sentry who stood over him, terminated his misery, by knocking him on the head with the butt-end of his musket.

The next execution I beheld, was that of a beautiful Samboe negroe: this unfortunate young man had killed an overseer when in a state of intoxication; but this was not admitted, and the poor fellow was sentenced to be broke alive upon the rack: he was laid on his back, on a strong cross, to which, with arms and legs extended, he was fastened by ropes. Never did I contemplate a finer figure, or a more intelligent countenance. A Samboe, is between a Mulatto and a Negroe; they are generally handsome— having dark curling hair, and a bright copper-coloured complexion. When extended on the cross, as I have already described, the executioner with a hatchet, chopped off his right hand, and, next took up a ponderous iron bar, with which, by repeated blows, he crushed his bones to shivers, till the marrow, blood, and splinters, flew about the field. The ropes were then unfastened, but the miserable creature was not dead: in vain he supplicated the guard to end his sufferings; this was denied him, as by his sentence, he was not to receive the mercy stroke. He made several fruitless attempts to destroy himself, till at length he perished with hunger—a fate, to which many for lesser crimes are doomed.

Should a luckless slave, in an evil hour, offend the manager, his death is certain, though various the means by which it is worked;—sometimes he is ordered to attend him when shooting; the unsuspecting negroe, eagerly discovers the game; but, instead of the bird that is started, himself is the victim, and he is shot dead on the spot.— Conscience troubles not the overseer, and, but for the fear of incurring his employer's displeasure, he would boast of killing the black dog.

At another time, the negroe, for deserting, is fastened to a stake in the middle of an open plain, exposed to the scorching rays of a meridian sun, with a gill of brackish

out and exhausted, he ends his mortal career. But managers are not the only perpetrators of cruelty;—the barbarity of planters exceeds even their avarice; and, to their love of vengeance, they sacrifice interest. So irritable are their feelings, so ungovernable their passions, and so vindictive their tempers, that while punishing the slave, they forget he is their property, and would sooner see him expire on the rack, than escape with impunity. Thus, you will frequently see negroes deprived of their limbs: some an arm, others a leg, or both.—Many, to prevent desertion, cause the unhappy victim to be ham-strung, or to drag, perpetually, a ponderous weight. I have seen a negroe flogged, for not performing his task, till his skin hung in tatters, and in that state, he has been sent to work in the fields.

Compassion is a stranger to the planter's bosom; nor is it a more welcome guest with the females, whose characteristic seems cruelty: instead of the gentle intercessor, they become the vengeful instigator of punishment, that they, unpitying witness, unmindful of the softness of their sex, or only remembering it to inflict greater pain; thus, has the negroe-driver been ordered to flog a female slave, chiefly across the bosom—while another for a slight failure of her duty, received two hundred lashes, and was compelled to drag for three months, a chain, several yards in length, one end of which was fastened to her ancle, and to the other, was affixed a weight, of more than one hundred pounds.

A negroe-boy, who unfortunately fell asleep while fanning his mistress, was sentenced to be punished two months; the first of which, he was flogged once every day, and the second, tied down flat on his back, with his feet in the stocks.—Some to avoid these dreadful punishments, have committed suicide: particularly the Coromantyn negroes, who frequently while being flogged, throw back their heads in the neck and swallow their tongue, which choaks them instantaneously.

Another painful method of shortening existence, is to eat common earth, whereby the stomach is prevented from performing its usual functions, and the sufferer lingers in a state of the most shocking debility for a twelvemonth. Though the Nago and Coromantyn negroes, are allowed to be the best tempered of all the sable tribe, they nevertheless, suffer pain with less patience than their unfortu-

The Maesti, is the offspring of an European and a Quaderoon; while the latter is the descendant of a white and a mulatto.

I once witnessed the uncommon fortitude of a Quaderoon, who was quartered alive: iron sprigs were driven completely home, underneath every one of his nails, on hands and feet; from each of which, the blood flowed copiously. Unmoved by the sight, and unshrinking from the pain, he with calm indifference, beheld four strong horses fastsned to his legs and arms;—nay, with a sneer, bid them pull away. This conduct, was considered by some, as an excuse for the severity of his punishment; but who that saw his altered countenance, his convulsed features and frenzied eye, could not have told his words were the language of despair, urged by acute sufferings. Not merely to chastise, but to gratify a vindictive spirit, are these cruel punishments devised. Vengeance, unsated, feasts on its victims, and seeking to veil the barbarity that is practiced, would fain represent the slaves unfeeling as themselves. If you must punish, punish with the hope of reforming,—not with the mean hope of inflicting pain!—I have known negroes flogged, without knowing for what offence!—this affords a striking proof that their amendment is not wished for.

Let us, however, suppose, that planters are cruel from habit, more than inclination; their opinion of the negroes is founded on error—they believe them to be stubborn and insensible to all, but pain: while this idea is cherished, we cannot expect the rigour of their destiny will be softened; but, it is hoped, that the British legislature, will shortly enact such laws as shall force them to think higher of men who encrease their stores, add to their comforts, and afford them the means of enjoying life — force them to consider them as human creatures, and they will cease from treating them like brutes, and make them lessen the evils they will not wholly remove. It is only for mitigation the slave can hope, as, with the abolition of the trade itself, their deliverance has not taken place! for whether the slave finds a purchaser in a Spaniard or Portuguese, captivity is still his lot. What then, has eloquence, unwearied assiduity, and the softer dictates of humanity performed? Nothing —save wiping off a stain from the British nation.

Be but more lenient, oh, ye planters!—use the correction of pursuasion, rather than the whip—so shall your sugar produce a sweet flavour—so shall your slaves serve you

with the cheerfulness of willing obedience—so shall abject fear vanish—fear, which, like the gloomy tyrant, may enforce submission, but never obtain love.

FINIS.

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